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NICE:—15, Quai Masséna.

Great Britain.

LONDON, DECEMBER 29 30, 1881.

PRINCE BISMARCK AND THE POPE.

So far as the rumours about "German intervention in the Roman question" refer to a projected restoration of the Pope's temporal power by the help of Germany they may be dismissed without further thought; it seems highly probable, however, that Prince Bismarck really has in view an intervention of another kind, and that he has proposed to the Pope and the Italian Government that the position of the former should be regulated by an international agreement, instead of, as now, by an Act of the Italian Parliament. There are obvious reasons which might make a settlement of this kind agreeable to several of the Powers. To the Pope it would restore a freedom of movement and action which he greatly values. Notwithstanding the excuses offered by the Italian Government for their inaction at the time of the removal of the late Pope's body, it is impossible for the Pope to go about Rome as he used to do without running great risk of insult. The police might arrest a few rioters after the offence had been committed; but they would not take those large measures of precaution which could ensure the Pope against insults being offered. If, however, the protection of the Pope's person devolved on the Italian Government by virtue of a municipal statute of an international treaty, the Italian Government would be able to take such precautions as they knew to be necessary with a very much better grace. Even an Italian Radical, if he were also a practical politician, would not wish to outrage the Pope at the cost of embroiling his country with foreign Powers. In return for this security the Pope might give to Italy the very great advantage of a reconciliation between the Government and the Church. The most conservative of forces would no longer be, as it is now, a revolutionary instrument. The Pope would have condoned the seizure of his temporal dominions, and in so doing he would have condoned the similar seizures which were effected at the expense of the Italian secular Princes. The connection between the Church and the principle of Legitimacy would be dissolved; and it would be no longer possible to argue that, as the Pope still denies the justice of the revolution which deprived him of his dominions, he must be understood by parity of reasoning to deny the justice of the revolutions which had subjected those secular Sovereigns to a similar fate.

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NEWS FROM THE TRANSVAAL.

The Durban correspondent of the *Times*, telegraphing on Thursday, says:

"The Durban correspondent of the *Times*, has just received news from the Transvaal. I have just received advice from Pretoria, which fully confirm my last statements as to the quiet character of the proceedings at Paardskraal. On the 14th inst., a large dinner party was held, at which the Landrost of Pretoria presided. Speeches were made by Messrs. Kruger, Joubert, Pretorius, and Jorissen, Mr. Hudson, the British Resident, and Chief Justice Koize. A review was held on the Dingaans on the 16th inst. The following was the chief feature of the gathering:—At 9 o'clock in the morning a gun was fired. The horses were instantly saddled, and the men, who were under arms, ran up to the top of the surrounding hills and there they all stood, there were about 6,000 mounted men, and the scene was a grand one.

"At the front of a high central platform a cairn was built of stones thrown down by the patriotic visitors. The rising ground was covered with women and children. Just below were men on foot, round whom the horsemen swept with remarkable celerity. This encircling movement surprised all who witnessed it, and this, combined with the accuracy of their fire and their simple commissariat arrangements, explains the causes which led to the Boer success and to our disasters in the late war.

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THE STATE OF IRELAND.

A Cork correspondent wrote on Thursday night:

"A man named Connell, a native of Millstreet, county Cork, a discharged soldier and at present in the militia, was arrested on Tuesday night, at Musgrave, between Macroom and Millstreet, on a charge of having firearms in a prohibited district. He was in bed with his clothing on when the arrest was made. In his vest pocket some documents were found disclosing the fact that a diabolical plot had been arranged by 'Captain Moonlight' and his gang to murder two farmers named Sullivan and Coakley, because it was supposed they had paid their rent to the landlord. Mr. Barry and Mr. Sullivan's two daughters were to have their hair cut off to distinguish them from one having spoken to a policeman, and the other for dealing in the property of Mr. Hayes, a boyhood trader of Millstreet. Connell, who is believed to be in the house of a farmer named Shea, and in one of the outbuildings a number of revolvers were found. A gold watch was found in Connell's possession, which is believed to have been stolen from the house of a Mr. Cudmore when a raid was made on his dwelling at night some months ago. The most minute details were set forth in the document referred to above as to how the assassination of the two farmers was to be accomplished, and the date for the execution of the diabolical act was set down as the 30th of December, 1881. Connell is now in Cork County Gaol, and will be brought up on the regular Court of Petty Sessions in a few days. It appears the two farmers had not paid their rent. Some important disclosures will in all probability be revealed at Connell's trial.

THE IMPORTANCE OF THE STATE.

Mr. Montagu Williams objected to the amount being mentioned, and said the will would prove it.

Mr. Montagu Williams continued, and said he placed the deceased at the establishment of Mr. Bedbrook, at Wimbledon, on the recommendation of Mr. Chapman; his brother had been a master there. The deceased was possessed of means, which were derived from India Four per Cent. and Consols, a

LATER.

The following additional particulars have been received relative to the arrest of the ex-militiaman Connell. He is a native of Millstreet, and is about 20 years of age. Discharged for bad conduct from the regular forces, he joined the militia. On Tuesday night a large force of police, under Constable Cahill, surrounded the house of Thomas Shea, a farmer living on the property of Mr. M. J. Barry, at Musgrave, a place midway between Macroom and Millstreet, and there arrested Connell on a charge of having arms in his possession in a prohibited district. It is almost pathetic to notice how they seem to crave for work rather than dold—work that they can do with their own hands, and which, comparatively useless as it may be in many cases, yet brings them money which they fondly fancy is its market value.—

Under this section of their operations the Relief Committee buy materials, and give them to poor gentlemen to make up into such garments as can subsequently be distributed among infirm and necessitous persons, to whom warm clothing during winter is indispensable. But there are many indigent ladies in Ireland who are too feeble to undertake even the lightest work, and the Association has to aid them with grants of money directly. Since the formation of the Association, more than six thousand claims have been considered, and grants or loans varying in amount from five to fifteen pounds have been made to eighty-nine claimants. Of course, many more cases are awaiting consideration, and how cruelly the ladies in question must be suffering is indicated by a letter from an applicant to the Directors of the Fund. She is the widow of a clergyman, and is entitled to twenty pounds a year of rent, and seventy eight pounds a year on mortgage. During the last eighteen months her income has dwindled away to seven pounds. She has three daughters depending on her, one of whom deprived of the use of her limbs is entirely helpless. This poor old lady is too feeble to work, and compound privation has evidently crushed her pride, because she frankly says that, if assisted, she does not see how she will ever be able to pay back what is advanced to her. Yet here is only one amongst hundreds of similar cases of destitution caused by the promulgation of the "No Rent" doctrine. Manifestly, the only thorough remedy for such suffering is to get in the rents, the non-payment of which has reduced so many innocent and gently-bred women to beggary. In that view every one who subscribes to the Property Defence Fund is also aiding the movement for the Relief of Irish Ladies in Distress; for there would be no distress amongst Irish ladies who are dependent on the returns from land for their slender incomes, if the law were only powerful enough to make the land yield any return in the shape of rent to those who own it.—*Evening Standard.*

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THE CASE OF ALLEGED POISONING AT WIMBLEDON.

On Thursday afternoon Mr. Paget, at the Wimbleton Police-court, proceeded with the charge against Dr. George Henry Lanson for causing the death of his brother-in-law, Percy Malcolm John, aged 19, a student at Blenheim-house, Wimbleton, by administering poison to him in a capsule while on a visit to him on the evening of the 3d inst. The same counsel appeared as before. Mr. Paget, at the last hearing of the case, suggested that an arrangement should be made to hear it at another court, on account of the limited time at his disposal at Wimbleton. He had communicated with Sir James Ingham, who had suggested sending the case to Bow-street. Mr. Paget, however, said he would prefer to have it tried at Wimbleton. The prisoner was remanded to be brought up at Bow-street on Friday, when an arrangement would be made for Sir James Lingham to proceed with the case.

AMERICAN RACEHORSES IN ENGLAND.

The various triumphs achieved by racehorses bred in the United States in the course of the year now drawing to a close have been adverted to from time to time, but now that they have been allowed to go into winter quarters a rapid review of these victories cannot fail to excite interest, illustrating as they do, with singular force, the prediction of the greatest sporting writer of his age, who in 1831 said that before half a century was over English breeders would find it necessary to renovate their strains of blood from the United States. For a long time it seemed that such an idea was but a chimera of the imagination, but with the arrival of Mr. Ten Broeck had the enterprise to bring a team of racers from the United States about five-and-twenty years ago, he scarcely met with a success which would justify "Nimrod's" bold prophecy. One of his horses won the Cesarewitch under a very light weight, and another secured the Goodwood Cup at a time when foreign horses were deemed so much inferior to our own that they were accorded an allowance of weight. Mr. Ten Broeck had a favourite, too, for the Derby in the year when Thoroughby won for Mr. Merry, and when Lord Palmerston was unplaced with Mainstone, but Umpire was by no means the stuff from which Derby winners are made, and with him may be said to have closed the first equine invasion from the United States.

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Mr. Montagu Williams objected to the amount being mentioned, and said the will would prove it.

Mr. Montagu Williams continued, and said he placed the deceased at the establishment of Mr. Bedbrook, at Wimbledon, on the recommendation of Mr. Chapman; his brother had been a master there.

The deceased was possessed of means, which were derived from India Four per Cent. and Consols, a

portion of which was left to him under his brother Hubert's will. Witness had not distributed any portion of the property left by the deceased. The sisters were the only relatives entitled to share it. Witness had not seen the prisoner since the burial of Hubert.

In answer to further questions, the witness said he was not present at the prisoner's marriage with Miss John. Witness's son was married to a woman who was possessed of under her mother's will.

Mr. William Greenfield Chapman, a clerk in the Civil Service, residing at Nicholls-road, Willesden, said the prisoner was his brother-in-law. Witness received Miss Chapman's portion after their marriage. The prisoner lived at Rotherfield, near Tunbridge-wells, after his marriage, where he had a practice as a surgeon. From there he went to Bournemouth, where he also practised as a surgeon. He said that in April in the present year, Witness knew that the prisoner went to America afterwards, about April. During his absence his wife remained for part of the time with witness at Willesden.

Mr. Wontner here observed that these questions were material, as they referred to documents which would be produced.

The witness went on to say that the prisoner was absent for two months. Witness visited the Isle of Wight this year, and the deceased stayed with him at Shanklin. The prisoner was at Ventnor at the same time, and visited him at Shanklin. Witness remembered the deceased being ill at Shanklin. He vomited and was out of sorts generally. The illness occurred in the afternoon and night. Witness could hardly call it illness, as he had had no fever. The deceased was a widow, and it is not known whether the prisoner's wife communicated with him. Witness showed the telegram to Inspector Butcher. The next morning the prisoner's wife left with the object of which he was aware. On the same day he heard that the prisoner was in custody.

Mr. Williams then said he thought that would be a convenient point at which to break off.

Mr. Paget read the letter which he had received from Sir James Ingham, and said he inferred from it that he was prepared to proceed with the case at Bow-street to-morrow.

Mr. Wontner said he wished to make a statement as speedily as possible to prevent anything back.

It appeared that various things which were found in the deceased's box were handed to the police, among them being a box containing two pills wrapped up in a peculiar manner and having the appearance of the box which the prisoner stated he had sent from America. There was also a box of powders bearing the name of a chemist in the Isle of Wight, who would be called, and they were all sent by Mr. Bedbrook to the police without any knowledge that there was anything wrong. The pills and powders were sent to the analyst for examination. In the box the analyst found a sufficient quantity of quinine to cause a fever. The powders were numbered from 1 to 20. Up to 15 they contained quinine such as a grain of aconite and 1/4 of a grain of quinine. That information had just come to his knowledge, but he thought it right to make this statement, lest it should be supposed that he was concealing anything.

Mr. Paget said the learned gentleman was quite right in making the statement.

The prisoner was then remanded to be brought up at Bow-street on Friday, when an arrangement would be made for Sir James Lingham to proceed with the case.

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NICE:—15, QUAI MASSENA.

Great-Britain.

LONDON, DEC 31, 1881—JAN. 1, 1882.

THE OLD YEAR.

The Times says:—The year 1881, though not distinguished by wars or revolutionary changes of the first magnitude, presents a record of memorable and important events in almost every country in the world. At home the Irish difficulty has grown to the most formidable proportions; British agriculture, already sorely smitten, has had to bear the keen disappointment of another unfavourable harvest. France has been drawn into the perilous labyrinth of the Tunisian expedition, while in her domestic politics the Republic has lost much of the character for moderation. In Germany, as in France, and also in Holland, in Belgium, in Spain, in Hungary, and in Bulgaria, public opinion has been agitated by general elections; political feuds have been embittered and the dominance of Prince Bismarck threatened. Though the different countries of Europe have had their internal troubles, the international relations of the great Powers have been more tranquil and easy than at any time since the battle of Sadowa.

The Spectator says:—Politically speaking, the past year has certainly been the most disagreeable of years, though not the most calamitous or the most devoid of promise. It has been a year of continual disappointment; the disappointment in the seasons has been but a symbol of our disappointments in political life. Even the best work of the year has been dashed with serious disappointment. The least sanguine of us looked—not doubt unrealistically—for more result before the year closed than we have actually had. There is no European country but Greece which can definitely congratulate itself on the course of its events, and we have certainly a picture of disagreements—especially in relation to the development of the parliamentary institutions of Europe—which, though very far from being of a nature to create despair, distinguishes 1881 as the year of most persistent disappointment of any year within our recollection. For apparent *coupes manquées*, England, France, Germany, Russia, and the United States will long remember the year just coming to a close.

The Saturday Review thinks the death of Lord Beaconsfield will perhaps henceforth serve as a date for a great change in English policy. In no previous year has the progress of revolution been more distinctly visible. To the public it has been a year of much pain, little satisfaction, and many losses; and a hope that the new year may be a brighter one may this time be expressed with more than ordinary fervour and sincerity.

The Daily Telegraph says:—A truce has been called as regards the old points of home politics. In India there is tranquillity, and in Afghanistan a truce; in the rest of our Empire, outside Ireland, comparative prosperity and complete peace. So closes 1881. Socially, there may have been better, and certainly there have been worse years than that of which we take our final leave to-night. Perhaps it is in the steady development of electricity that 1881 has been scientifically most remarkable.

The Standard thinks that the old year will be memorable as one of the most lamentable in our domestic annals. It began in gloom, it ends in gloom; and that has overshadowed us. Looking back upon the year as a whole, it offers little in the nature of consolation, and it leaves us with a prospect which is neither hopeful nor encouraging.

The Daily News says:—At home and in our various colonies there is the reality or the prospect of peace. It has been restored in Asia and Africa. The annals of our American and Australasian colonies have the blankness of prosperity and repose. Even in Ireland there are grounds of hope.

PRINCE BISMARCK AND THE POPE.

So far as the rumours about German intervention in the Roman question refer to a projected restoration of the Pope's temporal power by the help of Germany they may be dismissed without further thought. It seems highly probable, however, that Prince Bismarck really has in view an intervention of another kind, and that he has proposed to the Pope and the Italian Government that the position of the former should be regulated by an international agreement, instead of, as now, by an Act of the Italian Parliament. There are obvious reasons which might make a settlement of this kind agreeable to several of the Powers. To the Pope it would restore a freedom of movement and action which he greatly values. Notwithstanding the excuses offered by the Italian Government for their inaction at the time of the removal of the late Pope's body, it is impossible for the Pope to go about Rome as he used to do without running great risk of insult. The police might arrest a few rioters after the offence had been committed; but they would not take those large measures of precaution which could alone ensure the Pope against insults being offered. If, however, the protection of the Pope's person devolved on the Italian Government by virtue not of a municipal status but of an international treaty, the Italian Government would be able

to take such precautions as they knew to be necessary with a very much better grace. Even an Italian Radical—if he were also a practical politician—would not wish to outrage the Pope at the cost of embroiling his country with foreign Powers. In return for this security the Pope might give to Italy the very great advantage of a reconciliation between the Government and the Church. The most conservative of forces would no longer be, as it is now, a revolutionary instrument. The Pope would have condoned the seizure of his temporal dominions, and in so doing he would have condoned the similar seizures which were effected at the expense of the Italian secular Princes. The connection between the Church and the principle of Legitimacy would be dissolved; and it would be no longer possible to argue that, as the Pope still denies the justice of the revolution which deprived him of his dominions, he must be understood by parity of reasoning to deny the justice of the revolutions which had subjected those secular Sovereigns to a similar fate. The authoritative upsetting of this theory would bring to the support of the Government a considerable number of Italians who now hold aloof from it. There has been some speculation on the part of the Italian papers as to the possibility of Prince Bismarck's effecting this change without giving offence to France. There is reason to think, however, that the French Government would be only less benefited by it than the Italian Government. An arrangement by which the Pope accepted the loss of his temporal power, and thereby condoned the infliction of similar losses on the Italian Princes, would be extremely distasteful to the French Legitimists. All these are but the subsidiary gains which Prince Bismarck might hope to reap from such an arrangement as has been suggested. His principal gain would be the conciliation of the Catholic party in Prussia and Germany on singularly easy conditions. At present the main difficulty which Prince Bismarck has to meet is the want of any sufficient inducement to Catholics to come to terms with the State. The Prince has been driven to modify the administration of the May Laws by circumstances which make it pretty certain that he will not again attempt to enforce them in their integrity. Consequently, when the German Catholics come to consider whether they shall accept his overtures, and vote as he shall direct, they see no particular reason why they should do so. The concessions the Chancellor has already made to them have been dictated by considerations of self-interest; and there is no reason to fear that they will be withdrawn even if the Catholic party continues to hold itself neutral in parliamentary conflicts. Men seldom feel grateful for the simple cessation of annoyance, and up to this time this is all that the German Catholics have had to thank Prince Bismarck for. But if he were to take the initiative in a transaction which would enable the Pope to come out of the Vatican, to visit the great basilicas, to be present at the great functions, and generally to appear in an attitude of visible triumph over his spiritual adversaries in the city in which he has for ten years lived the life of a recluse, German Catholics would really have something to be thankful for. No lingering love for Legitimist principles would be present to alloy their satisfaction, and their votes would be given with the ardour that besets men who have the opportunity of showing genuine gratitude for a genuine service. Prince Bismarck may not be able to bring about an arrangement by which the immunities of the Pope in his character of Sovereign Pontiff shall be secured by an international instead of a municipal sanction; but he certainly has a very patent interest in effecting such an arrangement if it is possible for him to do so.—*St. James's Gazette*.

M. PAUL BERT AND THE BISHOPS.

The Saturday Review declares that M. Paul Bert is determined that the Church shall not forget what sort of ruler she has over her. The bishops are now to taste in their own persons some of the sweets of that surveillance to which they are supposed to have subjected our country.

The Minister has directed one of his subordinates to inform the Prefects minute information as to the character, antecedents, and habits of the bishops. M. Bert finds himself inconveniently in advance of his time, to being Minister in that happy future when churches and religious shall be no more; and when, if bishops have to be studied at all, it will be from specimens preserved in spirits, not from the living subject. Fortune has called M. Bert to greatness, while this beneficent process is still incomplete. The direction to the Prefects to keep a sharp eye on the bishops, and to subject their words and actions to the kind of scrutiny which detective policeman brings to bear on a suspected criminal, is sufficiently annoying to men who, down to a very few years back, were held just as important personages in their dioceses as the Prefect himself. The mere sense of being watched is unequalled to be watched by an equal to whom you have suddenly been made subordinate, is especially disagreeable. This last feature in the case is carefully brought out by the friends of the Government in the press. They defend M. Castagnary's circular on the ground that it involves no new principle. The point of M. Castagnary's circular lies in the fact that it extends to bishops a kind of inspection which has hitherto been only applied to the officials responsible to the Prefect. It treats them for the first time as the Prefect's subordinates. Even the motive alleged for the issue of the circular has a sting of its own. The bishops know that vacancies in the higher ranks of the hierarchy are filled by the Government, but they do not wish to be reminded that their promotion depends on M. Bert's pleasure. This is precisely the kind of position that has put the opposite party in the most unpleasant position possible. M. Gambetta's choice of a Minister of Worship is thus completely justified. He wished to make the clergy pass under the yoke, and while M. Bert is their superior there is no fear that any incident of the process will be excused them.

THE SENTENCES FOR BRIBERY.

The Saturday Review anticipated the answer Sir William Harcourt gave to the memorialists on behalf of the persons convicted of bribery. It is possible that severity of punishment may tend to create an artificial public opinion in condemnation of bribery:—

For the present, the unexpected sentences which have been passed seem to have produced an opposite effect. Rich and zealous Liberal writers like the *Conservative* of the opposite party, subscribe large sums to be employed at every general election, must strongly suspect that the application of the

funds which they provide is not always consistent with absolute purity. There are, however, legal experts who believe that the money is well spent through the hands of subordinate agents, who may not be inclined to lose an election for want of a moderate sum. Not a fewboroughs are, with more or less success, "nursed," as it is called, by neighbouring aspirants to parliamentary honours. The constituencies which profit by the continuous liberality of intending candidates are not morally distinguishable from their neighbours who sell themselves for a lump sum. As long as respectable politicians of both parties concur in such practices, it will be difficult to persuade ordinary persons that a distributor of bribes is on the same moral level with a thief or a forger.

MR. HERBERT GLADSTONE ON THE STATE OF IRELAND.

Some of Mr. Herbert Gladstone's statements in his recent speech at Manchester having been challenged by a speaker at a Conservative meeting, a gentleman at Stalybridge called Mr. Gladstone's attention to the subject, and has received a reply, in which Mr. H. Gladstone says:—

"In answer to your question, I have to say that for nearly a month I was travelling through the west—county Kilkenny, Limerick, Clare, and Galway; that I was continually moving about the country by night, as well as by day; that I was usually alone; that I never had an escort, armed or unarmed; and that my name was almost invariably known to the people of the places where I stayed, as my movements were reported almost daily in the local papers. What I said at Manchester about the absolute safety of strangers in Ireland is literally true. The difference in regard to this point between Mr. Croston and myself seems to be merely this: that I, speaking from personal experience, have given a literally accurate account of what a stranger who travels in Ireland may expect to encounter; and that Mr. Croston, without having had any such experience, has given a highly coloured and somewhat exaggerated account of what a stranger who travels in Ireland may expect to encounter."

THE IRISH LADIES IN DISTRESS.

The particulars of the work done by the Association for the Relief of Irish Ladies in Distress, as furnished to the Lord Mayor, are interesting but distressing. The recipients of succour obviously find the bread of charity bitter to taste, and it is almost pathetic to notice how they seem to crave for work rather than dole—work that they can do with their own hands, and which, comparatively useless as it may be in many cases, yet brings them money which they fondly fancy is its market value:—

Under this section of their operations the Relief Committee buy materials, and give them to poor gentlemen to make up into such garments as can subsequently be distributed among infirm and necessitous persons, to whom warm clothing during winter is indispensable. But there are many indigent persons in Ireland who are too feeble to take even the lightest work, and the Association has to find them of work of which they can be sure to be fit for the market.

COURT AND FASHIONABLE NEWS.

OSBORNE, FRIDAY.

The Queen drove out yesterday afternoon, attended by the Dowager Marchioness of Elvaston, and the Hon. Amy Lambart.

Mme. Marie Rose had the honour of singing before the Queen and the Royal Family in the evening.

The Ladies and Gentlemen in Waiting had the honour of joining the Royal Circle in the Drawing Room.

The Hon. Lady Ponsonby and the Misses Ponsonby and Lady Cowell received with invitations.

Her Majesty walked and drove out with Princess Louise and Prince Leopold this morning.

Princess Beatrice rode with the Marquis of Lorne.

Considerable preparations are being made at Bradgate Park, the seat of the Earl of Stamford and Warrington, for the visit of the Prince of Wales on the 9th of January. An address from the corporation will be presented at the railway station, after which the Prince will probably drive to an elegant carriage through the town to Bradgate Park.

Sophie Marchioness of Anglesey has arrived at her residence in Portland-place from Denma Park, Horsham.

The Queen has conferred the honour of knighthood upon Mr. William Patrick Andrew, chairman of the Scinde, Punjab, and Delhi railway Company.

THE CUCKOO NOTES.

Notwithstanding the fate of the unfortunate Mr. Powell, we find yet another member of Parliament, Mr. Pendaves Vivian, indulging in the same practice of bawling and rudely meeting with similar fate to that of Mr. Powell. With two skilled aeronauts he ascended the other night from south-west London, the start being delayed by unfavourable weather until 10 p.m. They found themselves in a strong current, which in ten minutes had placed them over North London, the lights below presenting a fairy scene of indescribable beauty. Though over 1,000 feet high, street lights were distinctly audible. Ascending rapidly to 8,000 feet, in an hour they found themselves passing at a tremendous rate over a flat country suitable for descending, and they resolved to come down. Gas was let out, and grappling irons dropped, when there was a sharp check and violent jerks, and suddenly they commenced soaring upwards at a rapid pace. The rope of the grappling irons had broken.

The Irish landladies affirm that from being rich, in many cases they have become actually impoverished. One landlord, whose case, perhaps, may be taken as typical, writes to the Standard to say that he is the owner of an estate, the gross rental of which was £4,000 a year, and the net rental, deducting rates, taxes, and other charges, about £2,600, and having charged the estate on the marriage of his sons, to the extent altogether of about £1,600, the margin of income remaining to him, about £1,000 a year, has been swept away by the reduction of about 25 per cent. in his rents. We must hope, that, in spite of the outcry now raised, very little more will really be heard of the claim for compensation by the Irish landladies. They are entirely cut off from their former sources of income, and have no claim as against the community of Ireland; but it is monstrous to suppose that if the people of the United Kingdom make a mistake in the government of one part of the country, they are to compensate the victims of that mistake. It is difficult enough to set bad laws right, without dealing with such claims for compensation.

The Standard thinks that the old year will be memorable as one of the most lamentable in our domestic annals. It began in gloom, it ends in gloom; and that has overshadowed us. Looking back upon the year as a whole, it offers little in the nature of consolation, and it leaves us with a prospect which is neither hopeful nor encouraging.

The Daily News says:—At home and in our various colonies there is the reality or the prospect of peace. It has been restored in Asia and Africa. The annals of our American and Australasian colonies have the blankness of prosperity and repose. Even in Ireland there are grounds of hope.

PRINCE BISMARCK AND THE POPE.

So far as the rumours about German intervention in the Roman question refer to a projected restoration of the Pope's temporal power by the help of Germany they may be dismissed without further thought. It seems highly probable, however, that Prince Bismarck really has in view an intervention of another kind, and that he has proposed to the Pope and the Italian Government that the position of the former should be regulated by an international agreement, instead of, as now, by an Act of the Italian Parliament. There are obvious reasons which might make a settlement of this kind agreeable to several of the Powers. To the Pope it would restore a freedom of movement and action which he greatly values. Notwithstanding the excuses offered by the Italian Government for their inaction at the time of the removal of the late Pope's body, it is impossible for the Pope to go about Rome as he used to do without running great risk of insult. The police might arrest a few rioters after the offence had been committed; but they would not take those large measures of precaution which could alone ensure the Pope against insults being offered. If, however, the protection of the Pope's person devolved on the Italian Government by virtue not of a municipal status but of an international treaty, the Italian Government would be able

selected for special duty in the following counties:—Mr. Clifford Lloyd, county Clare; Captain Butler, counties of Westmeath, Roscommon, and Leitrim; Hon. Thomas Plunkett, county Kerry; Mr. H. A. Blake, county Galway and King's County; Captain Slacke, Waterford and Cork. A reward of £100 is offered for private information which shall lead to the conviction of any of the persons in an armed party who fired shots into several houses in the county Tipperary on the 7th inst.

A shocking affair is reported from Mullingar. On Saturday morning a man in the employ of two sisters named Croghan, living at Irishtown, near Mullingar, left the house on an errand, and on his return found both the sisters shot. No motive for the crime is known at present. A correspondent gives the following account of the crime:—About half-past eight o'clock a tall dark man entered the house of a family named Croghan, consisting of the mother and two daughters. After hiding them good morning he produced a revolver and discharged it into the girls dead, and wounded the other dangerously that her life is despaired of. He immediately fled. The time selected for the deed was during the absence of the servant man.

The documents found upon Connell, the man who was arrested on Tuesday, are said to contain particulars of plots for the murder of five farmers. Connell is the son of a sergeant in the militia, and has himself been in the army. It is now considered certain that he was the leader in many of the outrages recently committed in the neighbourhood of Millstreet. By some it is thought that the information which led to his arrest was given by himself.

The Dublin police on Saturday night and on Friday selected the shop of *United Ireland*, *the Irish World*, and *O'Donnell's Review*. It is stated that the circulation in Ireland of these papers will be prohibited. Detectives also searched the *Irishman* office and examined the papers being printed there.

The Westmeath hounds were to have met at Meldrum on Friday, but when the master arrived, accompanied by a small field, a crowd had collected and stopped the hunt. It is alleged that two of the dogs were killed.

At a numerously attended meeting of the subscribers to the Carlow and Highland Hunt at Carlow on Friday, it was unanimously decided that hunting should be discontinued, in consequence of the opposition exhibited in parts on the country.

The Castlebar harriers, which were maintained by trustees of the Carbrey estate, are to be sold. It is stated that this course has been adopted in consequence of the non-payment of rent by the tenants and the obstruction of hunting.

THE DUBLIN OUTRAGE.—A STRANGE STORY.

A retired physician, resident in London, has communicated the following singular story to the *Daily Telegraph*:—About forty years ago, I was called upon to consult respecting the case of a certain John Crawford, who lived in one of the side streets of Crawford-street, Marylebone. Subsequently, he took a room for a short time in a house being a sufferer from a bronchial malady which from my first introduction to him was regarded as hopeless. This Crawford was a Scripture-reader, in the employ of a missionary society, and it is unnecessary to add, was a man of small means. With him was his wife, daughter, and son, a lad of fifteen or sixteen, with a countenance indicating firmness and tenacity of will. In my attendance at the bedside of my patient this boy was usually present, listening with close attention and evident interest to our talk. Crawford was very communicative respecting the case of the certain John Crawford, who I remained

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Great Britain.

LONDON, JANUARY 2, 1882.

THE ANGLO-FRENCH RUPTURE.

The Anglo-French Treaty negotiations are virtually at an end. We have never been particularly sanguine as to their result, and we have consistently impressed upon the public that the accession of M. Gambetta to power afforded no real guarantee that Sir Charles Dilke's Mission would be successful. The French Premier personally is no doubt in favour of an arrangement being come to, and on purely political grounds he cannot have failed strongly to desire it. But these considerations have proved of no avail, and there is no immediate prospect of the renewal, in any shape, of the compact between the two nations arrived at twenty-one years ago. Sir Charles Dilke and Mr. Austin Lee leave Paris to-day. Mr. Crowe remains; but that incident is without hopefulness or significance. The telegram of our Paris Correspondent makes it clear that the Commissioners, even when they agreed finally to differ, had come within sight of a settlement. In other words the miscarriage of the Treaty negotiations is due not to any irreconcileable antagonism on the question of principle, but on points of detail. Thus the French Commissioners agreed to a considerable reduction in the customs on cotton and woollen goods; they also offered a reduction on mixed woollens and on shoddy. But they would not go quite so far as the Representatives of England wished. The latter declared that the irreducible minimum had been reached, and Sir Charles Dilke showed his judgment in recognising the faults of the situation and in declaring his opinion that the Conference could not be advantageously continued any longer. This is a termination which we may regret, but at which we cannot be surprised. It is, moreover, one which we can well accept with the most perfect equanimity. France had everything to gain by the conclusion of a Treaty; England has little or nothing to lose by the failure to conclude it. Now, however, that the negotiations are, at least for the time, at an end, it may be as well to see exactly how we stand. The exportation of silks from France to England in 1880 represented a sum of rather more than ten millions; the exportation of French wines represented a sum of more than three millions and a quarter. The total of French imports into the United Kingdom of all kinds was just forty-two millions, as compared with thirty-eight millions and a half in the preceding twelvemonths. When the accounts for the year which commenced on Sunday come to be made up they will of course tell a very different tale. It is notorious, too, that a great deal of the wine which is drunk in England as the genuine product of the Bordeaux and Burgundy districts does not come from France at all. Spain is capable of giving us a fair red wine of moderate quality as France, and it has, as a matter of fact, already given us a much larger allowance of such a wine than many people are aware. The English Government will not go out of its way to retaliate on France, but it does not reorganise its tariff with Spain, and remove the grounds of the Spanish complaint that the wines of the Peninsula are unjustly subjected to a differential duty in this country. It would be affectation to suppose that the lapse of the Anglo-French Commercial Treaty will not affect in some degree the sentiment existing between the two countries. The responsibility rests with France, and if there is any diminution in the cordiality of international feeling, the French people must understand that its cause must not be sought on this side of the Channel.—Standard.

NEW YEAR CUSTOMS.

The wish, "A Happy New Year," expressed either verbally or by card, some faint echo of the ancient custom of seeing the old year out and the new one in, the commencement of a new diary, and perhaps a few good resolutions, are all that mark in England the transition from one year to another. So far as evening is concerned, Christmas festivities are not yet concluded, but so far the day goes work begins as steadily with the New Year as at any other time. Practically, if not morally, a new leaf is turned over, but that is all. A balance is struck, sometimes with severe exactitude and due fulfilment of liabilities; sometimes in the airy and ineffectual manner of the two young men in "Great Expectations." Herbert and Pip, it will be recalled, got all their numerous bills together, checked them, docketed them, catalogued them, and then dismissed them from their minds after the manner of the Irish gentleman who wrote his name across a bill of exchange, and, flinging down the pen, exclaimed, "Thank God! that is settled." Morally there is an attempt to turn over a very new leaf indeed. It will vary much in hue according to the mind which resolves upon it. The overworked professional man who is heaping up money, not from covetousness, but because he cannot escape from the groove of work and has no time to spend his earnings on pleasure, resolves that this New Year shall give

PARIS, TUESDAY, JANUARY 3, 1882.

PRICE 40 CENTIMES

him, if not deerstalking, at least a share of a moor, for his work is beginning to tell, and he has experienced that queer sensation known as "not being the man he was." Another, who is not so rich in the world's goods, reflects with some dismay that instead of "getting on," he is just a little worse off than he was twelve months ago, and makes a good resolution to hark back to that "constable" whom he has been perpetually outrunning. One of the easiest resolutions to make and the most difficult to keep is that of rising early in the morning. The season at which the resolution is made is hardly the most favourable for matutinal study. In the morning the fires are out, the rooms are cold, and coffee unattainable, so that plenty of excuses can be found for giving up the scheme as impracticable, but a certain satisfaction is felt at having at least made the resolve. And this is all that New Year's Day means in this England, with its quiet manners and cool unobtrusiveness. The old year is dead; God save the new, and send us prosperity. That is all. It is not thus in every country, even of those speaking the English tongue. On the Continent, and especially in France, New Year's Day is the Feast of Gifts. It is not long since the New Year was looked for in Paris with as much anxiety and apprehension as joy, for the Bonaparte who then ruled France was wont to make a noteworthy speech at the formal reception on the first day of the year. Fortunately the peace of Europe no longer hangs on the breath of an absolute ruler, and New Year's Day is restored in France entirely to its ancient programme. In the great English-speaking Republic beyond sea the French method of treating the New Year has long prevailed over that of England. Whether the American New Year is really an amplification of the Scotch is a question which may be left to antiquaries. Perhaps it is a relic of the Puritanism which protested against Christmas as a Pagan and Popish celebration, and chose two holidays instead of one in Thanksgiving and New Year's Days. Christmas was overlooked in the United States till only the other day, when the combined influence of the German population and Charles Dickens's stories revived the nearly extinct Feast Day. Now it meets with due observance of presents and Christmas trees; but the most important social festival is still the first day of the year. There is a national display on the Fourth of July or Independence Day, when there is great noise of fire-crackers and uproar generally, but anything like enjoyment is impossible with the thermometer at 90 deg. in the shade. New Year's Day is essentially a day to be spent, if not in Paris, then in New York, where, although the French custom prevails, it is with very considerable modifications. For instance, it would delight the stony man of the Parisian caricaturists to find that, firstly, he is not obliged to take a present to every house he calls at, and secondly, that he is expected to partake of refreshment at every such dwelling. A few years ago it was the almost invariable custom in every family to furnish forth a table as for a wedding breakfast, near which stood the hostess with her daughters and any other pretty young ladies whom she could persuade to come and help her in what might be called playing at parlour-maids. The house-father and "the boys" were out visiting, and the ladies remained at their sumptuous table arrayed like Solomon in his glory. For weeks previously there was excitement about the New Year's frocks, which were invariably gorgeous. As callers arrived they paid their respects to the lady of the house, and were then handed over to the younger ladies, who in old-fashioned houses considered it a matter of honour that every one should partake of something, if only a spoonful of chicken salad, or a picked oyster, and a glass of champagne; after which one of the callers—they generally go in pairs—would mention to his companion that they still had thirty or forty calls to make, and they would take their leave, driving off merrily through the snow to their next destination. So great is the demand for carriages in New York on New Year's Day that on the morning itself it is as impossible to hire a decent vehicle as it is in London on the Derby Day. So the callers drove on enjoying themselves very much. Occasionally a slight tendency towards conviviality was visible, but apologists were not wanting. It was a kind of carnival and a festival of mankind on whom for once women waited as willing handmaidens. This very free and easy acceptance of the yearly festival is now swiftly passing away, and is already beyond the ken of cultivated people. But the kindly features of the day remain in the United States as they do in France, Scotland, and other countries, except England, where the goodly fashion of renewing friendship annually has yet to take root and blossom forth in bouquets and bonbons.—*Daily News.*

him, if not deerstalking, at least a share of a moor, for his work is beginning to tell, and he has experienced that queer sensation known as "not being the man he was." Another, who is not so rich in the world's goods, reflects with some dismay that instead of "getting on," he is just a little worse off than he was twelve months ago, and makes a good resolution to hark back to that "constable" whom he has been perpetually outrunning. One of the easiest resolutions to make and the most difficult to keep is that of rising early in the morning. The season at which the resolution is made is hardly the most favourable for matutinal study. In the morning the fires are out, the rooms are cold, and coffee unattainable, so that plenty of excuses can be found for giving up the scheme as impracticable, but a certain satisfaction is felt at having at least made the resolve. And this is all that New Year's Day means in this England, with its quiet manners and cool unobtrusiveness. The old year is dead; God save the new, and send us prosperity. That is all. It is not thus in every country, even of those speaking the English tongue. On the Continent, and especially in France, New Year's Day is the Feast of Gifts. It is not long since the New Year was looked for in Paris with as much anxiety and apprehension as joy, for the Bonaparte who then ruled France was wont to make a noteworthy speech at the formal reception on the first day of the year. Fortunately the peace of Europe no longer hangs on the breath of an absolute ruler, and New Year's Day is restored in France entirely to its ancient programme. In the great English-speaking Republic beyond sea the French method of treating the New Year has long prevailed over that of England. Whether the American New Year is really an amplification of the Scotch is a question which may be left to antiquaries. Perhaps it is a relic of the Puritanism which protested against Christmas as a Pagan and Popish celebration, and chose two holidays instead of one in Thanksgiving and New Year's Days. Christmas was overlooked in the United States till only the other day, when the combined influence of the German population and Charles Dickens's stories revived the nearly extinct Feast Day. Now it meets with due observance of presents and Christmas trees; but the most important social festival is still the first day of the year. There is a national display on the Fourth of July or Independence Day, when there is great noise of fire-crackers and uproar generally, but anything like enjoyment is impossible with the thermometer at 90 deg. in the shade. New Year's Day is essentially a day to be spent, if not in Paris, then in New York, where, although the French custom prevails, it is with very considerable modifications. For instance, it would delight the stony man of the Parisian caricaturists to find that, firstly, he is not obliged to take a present to every house he calls at, and secondly, that he is expected to partake of refreshment at every such dwelling. A few years ago it was the almost invariable custom in every family to furnish forth a table as for a wedding breakfast, near which stood the hostess with her daughters and any other pretty young ladies whom she could persuade to come and help her in what might be called playing at parlour-maids. The house-father and "the boys" were out visiting, and the ladies remained at their sumptuous table arrayed like Solomon in his glory. For weeks previously there was excitement about the New Year's frocks, which were invariably gorgeous. As callers arrived they paid their respects to the lady of the house, and were then handed over to the younger ladies, who in old-fashioned houses considered it a matter of honour that every one should partake of something, if only a spoonful of chicken salad, or a picked oyster, and a glass of champagne; after which one of the callers—they generally go in pairs—would mention to his companion that they still had thirty or forty calls to make, and they would take their leave, driving off merrily through the snow to their next destination. So great is the demand for carriages in New York on New Year's Day that on the morning itself it is as impossible to hire a decent vehicle as it is in London on the Derby Day. So the callers drove on enjoying themselves very much. Occasionally a slight tendency towards conviviality was visible, but apologists were not wanting. It was a kind of carnival and a festival of mankind on whom for once women waited as willing handmaidens. This very free and easy acceptance of the yearly festival is now swiftly passing away, and is already beyond the ken of cultivated people. But the kindly features of the day remain in the United States as they do in France, Scotland, and other countries, except England, where the goodly fashion of renewing friendship annually has yet to take root and blossom forth in bouquets and bonbons.—*Daily News.*

AN UNSATISFACTORY RETROSPECT.

The spoken or unspoken wish which accompanies the salutation—"A Happy New Year"—exchanged this day between some millions of English men and women will be "May 1882 be an improvement on 1881." Of the political significance and associations of the past twelve months there is no need to speak here; let us confine ourselves entirely within the limits of its social and domestic chronicle. It is not that 1881 had been darkened by the shadow of any great national calamity. We have been free from plague, pestilence, and famine. There has been little exceptional distress; there have not been upon a considerable scale any of those stubborn contests between labour and capital which may establish great principles, but which, while they last, involve loss and misery to both sets of combatants; work has been plentiful; wages have been fair; all the necessities, and some of the luxuries of life have been cheap; the luxuries were bounteous; the paralysis which overcame commerce and trade five years ago has disappeared. For all this we should be, and it is to be trusted that we are, duly thankful. Yet the causes of the vague depression already alluded to, and of the sentiment of relief which is as distinct as it is general that we have turned our backs upon the old year are not far to seek. Eighteen hundred and eighty-one has been traversed by an unusual vein of mishaps and catastrophes, many of them of the most deplorable and alarming kind. It has been full of murders and sudden deaths. There have been appalling accidents by land and water, and even in the firmament, which

is above both. Crime has never been so audacious and so steady. The sense of insecurity of life and property was never so deeply impressed upon the minds of high and low, rich and poor. Society has become conscious to an extent it never was before, that its sworn enemies may, on an emergency, prove as powerful as its natural defenders. That the "reign of law" may at any moment temporarily be replaced by despotism of anarchy. The assassination of the Czar and of the President of the United States forcibly brought home to the English people that there were at work in their midst malignant and deadly forces with which no existing agencies are quite adequate to cope. Between these outrages and the murder of Mr. Gold in a first-class railway carriage, there is, of course, no real connection. But when the public is once in an excited and uneasy mood, it is keenly sensible to chance coincidences. The brutal crime of Lefroy was only one of a series. Others equally atrocious have escaped detection. Just as "political" homicides are not, as is plain, deterred by any fear of consequences, so the cut-throats and cut-purses of private life will persist in their courses until they are convinced by experience that the chances in favour of the law and of detection amount to a moral certainty. How is this conviction to be borne in upon them? Upon what line is our machinery available for the repression or discovery of crime to be amended or reorganised? On one side are ranged the powers and resources of villainy; on the other is the coercive apparatus of civil government. When will the latter be able to prove that it is infallibly adequate to deal with the former? There are other considerations which partially explain the atmosphere of *tristesse* that has pervaded the past year. Though the condition of the working classes has been, or, for the reasons already specified, ought to have been satisfactory, and even prosperous, the middle and upper classes of the United Kingdom have been more or less under a cloud. The possessors of fixed incomes had every reason to congratulate themselves, for never with reasonable management did a moderate amount of money go so far, and never were the luxuries and ornaments of life—such as wines and pictures—to be picked up so cheaply by those who have known where to search for them. The London season, too, of 1881 was on the whole brilliant. The weather was favourable; towns were incessantly full; there were fewer dinner-parties than usual; there were more garden parties and receptions than ever; there was a perfect epidemic of fancy fairs and bazaars. But, though the general effect was bright and lively, there was not much solid satisfaction to be derived from it by the trading community. Never were so many houses on the books of estate-agents. Proprietors of furnished apartments and of hotels did a brisk business, and were almost the only persons who did not and who had not reason to complain. The truth is that the London season of 1881 was to a great degree conspicuous by the absence from it of a class which has contributed more than any other to the success of the season as an institution—the landed gentry and their families, who, without being plutocrats, have been sufficiently well-to-do, and who have been in the habit of passing at least four months out of the twelve in the metropolis. The inability of landlords on the other side of St. George's Channel to get their rents has not been exclusively an Irish experience. English landlords have suffered severely from the same cause as well. The owners of vast estates in different parts of the kingdom who count their rentals by tens of thousands have not felt the shoe pinch. To them it is almost nothing whether half a dozen of their farms in a single county remain upon their hands unlet. But in the case of smaller proprietors it is quite another matter. To the gentleman who has hitherto received some five or six thousand a year from the land it makes all the difference between competence and poverty if two or three of the largest farms are without tenants. His estate is almost certain to be encumbered; there are charges on it for the benefit of relatives to pay; there are sons at school, at college, or in the army; there are daughters whose education is in the costly process of finishing. Many English gentlemen in this position have been reduced in the past year to practical poverty. In many instances they have had to let their country home; in none have they been able to take up their residence in the city. The owners of vast estates in different parts of the kingdom who count their rentals by tens of thousands have not felt the shoe pinch. 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FRANCE AND TUNIS.

The Times has received the following despatches from correspondents:—

TUNIS, SATURDAY.

M. Roustang arrived to-day in Tunis, and proceeded at once to the French Residency. He was met at Goletta by General Mussali and another Tunisian functionary, officially representing the Bey. The attempt to organise a demonstration can hardly be said to have been successful, nor more than a dozen Frenchmen were present and the large crowd of Algerian *protégés*. Some address will be presented to the Bey on Monday morning.

Baroda was last week the scene of great festivities in connection with the investiture of the young Gaikwar. The actual ceremony of investiture took place on Wednesday, and was performed by the Governor of Bombay, as the representative of the Viceroy. Sir James Ferguson, after placing the young Prince on the throne, addressed him at some length. The continuance of the dynasty of Baroda is threatened with famine and the pestilence which invariably follows in its wake.

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Great Britain.

LONDON, JANUARY 2-3, 1882.

THE ANGLO-FRENCH TREATY.

Probably the political results of the anticipated failure of the Treaty negotiations will be greater in France than in England. Mr. Gladstone, devoted, as he is known to be, to Free Trade and to international peace, will gain rather than lose by the attitude of his negotiators. It will be seen that he knows how to be firm, and that he is resolved to make no further concessions even for the sake of that *entente cordiale*, a regard for which he inherits from his old leader Lord Aberdeen. There is little likelihood that any taunts will be addressed to our Minister for a result which no reasonable concession on his part could avert. In France the scattered and discordant Opposition are not likely to be so reticent. Many shades of journalists, from the purest Legitimist to the deepest "Red," will be delighted to characterise this as another of M. Gambetta's "failures," and it will certainly be awkward that negotiations which hung fire because of his expected accession should collapse altogether almost as soon as he takes the reins. French trade and speculation are remarkably sensitive, and the fear of a war of tariffs will certainly arise. For the two countries will recover their freedom, and will stand in the fiscal position they occupied when Mr. Cobden had his first interview with Napoleon III. There is, however, very little chance of our returning to the tariff of 1859; for we have gone long beyond the elementary idea that a nation is rich the more it shuts out products from abroad. In 1860, with a few limited exceptions, Mr. Gladstone abolished totally all duties upon all imported manufactures. "There will be," he said, "a sweep summary, entire, and absolute, of all such goods from the British tariff. That change was final; there is not the remotest chance that under any idea of retaliation we shall re-impose a single item of the taxes we imposed then removed. As regards, however, the change in the wine duties effected in 1860, in accordance with the Treaty, not only shall we be released from the obligations of that instrument, but it would be quite practicable to modify rather than reverse our proceedings twenty-one years ago. It must be remembered that at that time we not only reduced the wine duty, but adopted a sliding scale with reference to alcoholic strength. This was a distinct concession to France. Just as our Bradford and Manchester manufacturers desire *ad valorem* duties because they can beat the world in low-priced goods, the wine-growers of the South of France wished for an alcoholic scale because in cheap "weak" wines they are unvalued. As an equal, or anything like an equal, tariff on all "cottons" or "woollens" taken in the mass duty on our coarser goods, so a fixed duty on wine as wine operates, in favour of the stronger and dearer liquors of Spain and Portugal, and proportionately against the cheap vintages of the Gironde. The recovery of our liberty as regards wine would enable the English Government to make changes not in the slightest degree opposed to the principles of Free Trade, but still operating indirectly to the disadvantage of the French growers. If all wines are admitted at a fixed duty per gallon without reference to strength, the dearer and more alcoholic liquors of Spain will gain in competition with the cheaper wines of France now admitted at a reduced duty. We shall be perfectly free either to level up or to level down. As Mr. Chamberlain said last August, "If the Treaty negotiations with France should break down, the English Government would be perfectly justified in dealing with the wine and spirit duties as they thought best for the interests of the country." He also pointed out that the duty on these articles was "partly fiscal and partly moral," so that, quite independent of revenue considerations, we might raise the tariff. At present the duty—varied as regards the degrees of proof spirit—practically admits nearly all French claret at a shilling a gallon, and imposes on all sherries and ports two and sixpence a gallon at least. Were we to raise the lower duty we should sensibly diminish the export of French wine to England; the cheaper clarets could not pay half a crown a gallon and be sold here at their present rate. Is M. Gambetta prepared to face the discontent of the South, the very districts that produce not only the greatest quantities of wine, but the fiercest politicians, as the annals of the country for three generations abundantly attest? Then, as regards spirits, in 1859 we levied a duty on their import of fifteen shillings a gallon; we now levy a little over ten shillings a gallon. Were we to revert to the tariff of twenty-one years ago as regards all alcoholic beverages Mr. Gladstone would be supported by the advocates of temperance, by the friends of British industry, and by men of all shades of politics. "We don't want to fight" but if driven to retaliation we should be united as one man. It will be for the French to consider whether for the sake of a minority of manufacturers they will imperil a commerce which has advanced from fourteen millions a year of French products sold to England before the Treaty to an annual average of forty-two millions during the last few years. On international grounds generally anything that diminishes cordiality between the two

countries is to be regretted. France has much to apprehend from isolation. She is not in the position in which she stood in 1860, when the Emperor Napoleon, victor in two great wars, had raised her to a commanding though dangerous eminence. Then no German existed to dispute with her the supremacy of Europe, and Russia and Austria had not only felt her power but were suitors for her alliance. At present she feels the results of 1870 in every direction, and England is the only Great Power on whose friendly feeling she can securely count. The real interests of the two countries are not opposed in any direction, and in Egypt both have a distinct gain in maintaining the *status quo* and in agreeing to exclude more or less all other European influence. If, however, the spirit which suggested and still sustains the Tunis expedition, and which has animated the negotiators in Paris last week, continues to prevail, English policy will suffer an inevitable change. We shall be drawn towards Germany, Austria, and Italy, to the ultimate isolation of France. She, not we, would suffer most were Egypt to glide from under its present dual into a new international Protectorate, and in anything like a general Council of States she would find herself "severely alone." The policy of expansion and adventure that suited France for a time under the two Empires seems greatly out of place now. Europe is very different from what it was in 1811 or 1860. France itself is quite as strong, if not stronger, but her rivals have augmented their powers far beyond the proportion of her advance.—*Daily Telegraph.*

THE LADIES' LAND LEAGUE AND THE GOVERNMENT.

The Government have at last arrested three or four of the members of the Ladies' Land League. There was no alternative, unless the Irish Executive was prepared to stultify itself in the opinion of the public on both sides of St. George's Channel. The Ladies' Land League was declared illegal, and was, therefore, *ipso facto* suppressed ten days ago. Miss Parnell and the other members of the seditious Sisterhood defied the Proclamation, and when they did not ignore it, noticed it only to denounce it. On Sunday they held a meeting in Dublin as a challenge to the Government, and it was publicly stated that similar assemblages of all the Branches of the Association would take place on every Sunday "as a protest against the disposition of the police to make laws according to their own fancy." This left the Government no option. When women ostentatiously enrol themselves in the lists of the party hostile to law and order, there is only one rule which those who are responsible for the enforcement of order and law can observe. The Executive in matters of this kind can no more be a respecter of sex than of persons. An agitation led by revolutionary Amazons is as perilous a threat to the public peace as one the promoters of which are the wearers of frock coats or corduroy jackets. The *Pétroleuses* did more mischief than the *Pétroleuses*, and when women deliberately unsex themselves for political or any other reasons, they can neither claim nor receive much sentimental consideration. The lady Land Leaguers had fair warning, and if there is a fault to be found with the Government it is not that they have acted too quickly, but that they did not give some unmistakable sign of their resolution to act a little earlier. This, indeed, is the error which Mr. Gladstone's Cabinet has committed too often. It has deliberated too long; it has carried out its resolutions too late. Ireland is no suitable field for the display of Fabian tactics. The Government were perfectly free to choose their own opportunity. If, immediately after their circular declaring the Ladies' Land League illegal had been formally dated by Miss Parnell, the authorities had unmistakably shown their determination not to allow those who mocked and disobeyed the law to go unpunished, it is probable that the present disagreeable necessity would not have been forced upon them. The Lady Leaguers presumed upon the hesitation of the Executive, and the repeated indecision of the Government in the past justified their doing so. Hence it is that we are witnessing a new illustration of a familiar truth. The consequence of the failure to renew the Peace Preservation Act was the strongest Coercion Act known for half a century, and the wholesale arrest of suspects; the consequence of Miss Parnell's depreciation of the vigorous intentions of the Government is the commitment of several ladies to prison who were probably never serious competitors for the crown of martyrdom.—*Standard.*

THE ROMAN QUESTION.

THE RUMOURED NEGOTIATIONS.

The Vienna correspondent of the *Standard* telegraphed on Monday night:—

"The Papal Nuncio, M. Gassionne Vandelli, to whom I made a New Year's visit to-day, mentioned, in the course of conversation, upon the Roman Question, referring especially to the articles in the *Diritti* and the statements made in the semi-official German papers.

His Excellency said that he knew nothing of the alleged negotiations concerning the position of the Pope, beyond the unwarranted rumours which had found their way into print. If there had been any substantial basis for these rumours he would have heard of them, seeing that the Court of Vienna was friendly to the Vatican; but nothing had reached him, either from the Court of Vienna or from Rome, which could justify the irritation manifested by the *Diritti* on the subject, or which could be considered as a political fact. "I know," said the Nuncio, "that nobody here knows more about the matter than myself. The question is, no doubt, a natural one, but up to the present, through perhaps ideas and intentions exist in regard to it, these have not yet been translated into action. I have heard, however," continued the Nuncio, "from friends in Rome, and I repeat what they said quite officially, that plans have been broached for dealing with the difficulty in which, since 1870, both Italy and the Pope have been placed."

I remarked that the Law of Guarantees was intended to solve this difficult problem. The Nuncio answered, "That is doubtful. I had," said he, "a conversation recently upon this subject with one of my colleagues who knows Italy perfectly well, and also the general drift of Italian politics. The substance of this conversation, added the Nuncio, "may interest you. My colleague observed that there did not exist in Italy a statesman, including even Signor Depretis, who would not gladly change the Roman capital if he could decently do so. Before

the occupation of Rome, Italy could choose her allies freely, as becomes an independent State. Now, being mixed up with the Papal Question, she must necessarily suffer whenever any dispute arises in which the Roman Church is concerned. Her alliances demand more or less upon the good or ill will of the Powers towards the Pope. This would no longer be the case if Italy were in possession of her independent territory. Only then could Italy become a really powerful State. 'It has been urged,' said my colleague, 'that this could only be brought about after a war; but the idea is erroneous. Italian statesmen fully appreciate the nature of the difficulty, and the risk of incurring what has already been done, more especially as the necessity of obtaining Rome as the capital of Italy, before the occupation in 1870, became the watchword of the Italian Revolutionists. These, perhaps, will soon have other watchwords, aimed against the maintenance of existing institutions. A war, whether successful or otherwise, could hardly effect a satisfactory change. The end could be much better achieved by diplomatic pressure, since the Revolutionists would hardly venture to face the whole of Europe. At the same time, Italian Statesmen acting under the pressure of necessity would probably find a means of solving this problem in a manner that would equally benefit the Pope, the Church, the dynasty, and Italy herself, who would then be a really independent Power."

"Does your Excellency," inquired, "share these opinions?" He replied, "There is much force in them." I asked, "What concessions, in your opinion, should be made to the Pope, in order to bring about a reconciliation between the Church and Italy?" He answered, "I have no authority to speak upon the matter, and should hardly like to give an opinion as a representative of the Church." I asked the Monsignore what he thought about the report to the effect that the Pope should receive Rome with a strip of territory extending as far as Civita Vecchia. "I cannot," he replied, "express my own opinion, but in influential political circles this solution would be considered satisfactory, if it could be arrived at by means of friendly understanding. It is said in these circles that the Pope would consider himself free when he could come and go *per mare* without crossing the territory of another Sovereign; but even this enclosure might form part of the Kingdom of Italy, provided that the Pope was able to exercise Sovereign authority therein. Italy could maintain the administration of the territory, acting in the Pope's name, levying the taxes and customs duties, exercising police supervision as in other parts of Italy, and even keeping troops there, on the understanding that they were not there for the purpose of watching or molesting the Pope, but simply protecting him against foreign enemies, as the French troops did during their stay."

"But does your Excellency," I inquired, "think it possible to achieve this result?" The Monsignore answered, "I am not sufficiently well acquainted with the opinions of the leading Italian statesmen; but, being an Italian myself, I can only wish that some friendly understanding may be brought about which will satisfy both parties, thereby restoring the greatness of the Church and at the same time securing the freedom of Italy."

I asked the Monsignore if there had not been some *pourparlers* on that subject when King Humbert was in Vienna. "I heard nothing," replied the Nuncio, "not having been here at the time; but Cardinal Haydn told me how extremely gracious the King and Queen were towards him. The Queen kissed his hands with devotion, thereby showing the reverence of the Royal family for the Church and her representatives. This, however," added the Monsignore, "is no novelty." The conversation then turned upon other topics.

PROGRAMME OF THE NATIONAL PARTY OF EGYPT.

The Syed Ahmed Bey Arabi sends to the *Times* the following exposition of the views and purposes of the party of which he has become the leader:—

Cairo, Dec. 18.

1. The National party of Egypt accept the existing relations of Egypt with the Porte as the basis of their movement. That is to say, they acknowledge the Sultan Abdul Hamid Khan as their Sovereign and Lord and actual Caliph or head of the Mussulman religion; nor do they propose, while his Empire stands, to alter this relationship. They admit the right of the Porte to the tribute fixed by law and to military assistance in case of foreign war. At the same time, they are determined to defend their national rights and privileges, and to oppose by every means in their power the attempts of those who would reduce Egypt again to the condition of a Turkish Pashalik. They trust in the protecting Powers of Europe, and especially in England, to continue their guarantee of Egypt's administrative independence.

The National party express their loyal allegiance to the person of the reigning Khedive. They will continue to support Mohamed Tewfik's authority so long as he shall rule in accordance with justice and the law, and in fulfilment of his promises made to the people of Egypt in September, 1881. They declare, however, their intention to permit no renewal of that despotic reign of injustice which Egypt has so often witnessed, and to insist upon the exact execution of his promise of governing with a Council of Deputies (Mejlis Showra in Mawakib) and giving the country freedom. They invite Sir Herbert Kitchener to cross the Tugela, and although the circumstances of the hour compelled him to postpone his visit to South Africa, they will remain to assist him in this task, and to assist him in his efforts to put an end to the rebellion of the Zulus. When the Zulu war was on the eve of breaking out, Sir Henry Bulwer wrote some remarkable despatches, in which he deprecated too hasty an attack of the theory that Cetshwayo intended to invade Natal. It was this that induced him to invite Sir Herbert to cross the Tugela, and although the circumstances of the hour compelled him to postpone his visit to South Africa, they will remain to assist him in this task, and to assist him in his efforts to put an end to the rebellion of the Zulus. When the Zulu war was on the eve of breaking out, Sir Henry Bulwer wrote some remarkable despatches, in which he deprecated too hasty an attack of the theory that Cetshwayo intended to invade Natal. It was this that induced him to invite Sir Herbert to cross the Tugela, and although the circumstances of the hour compelled him to postpone his visit to South Africa, they will remain to assist him in this task, and to assist him in his efforts to put an end to the rebellion of the Zulus. 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Great Britain.

LONDON, JANUARY 2-3, 1882.

THE ANGLO-FRENCH TREATY.

Probably the political results of the anticipated failure of the Treaty negotiations will be greater in France than in England. Mr. Gladstone, devoted, as he is known to be, to Free Trade and to international peace, will gain rather than lose by the attitude of his negotiators. It will be seen that he knows how to be firm, and that he is resolved to make no further concessions even for the sake of that *entente cordiale*, a regard for which he inherits from his old leader Lord Aberdeen. There is little likelihood that any taunts will be addressed to our Minister for a result which no reasonable concession on his part could avert. In France the scattered and discordant Opposition are not likely to be so recent. Many shades of nationalists, from the purest Legitimist to the deepest "Red," will be delighted to characterise this as another of M. Gambetta's "failures," and it will certainly be awkward that negotiations which hung fire because of his expected accession should collapse altogether almost as soon as he takes the reins. French trade and speculation are remarkably sensitive, and the fear of a war of tariffs will certainly arise. For the two countries will recover their freedom, and will stand in the fiscal position they occupied when Mr. Cobden had his first interview with Napoleon III. There is, however, very little chance of our returning to the tariff of 1859; for we have gone long beyond the elementary idea that a nation is rich the more it shuts out products from abroad. In 1860, with a few limited exceptions, Mr. Gladstone abolished totally all duties upon all imported manufactures. "There will be," he said, "a sweep summary, entire, and absolute, of all such goods from the British tariff." That change was final; there is not the remotest chance that under any idea of retaliation we shall re-impose a single item of the taxes on imports then removed. As regards, however, the change in the wine duties effected in 1860, in accordance with the Treaty, not only shall we be released from the obligations of that instrument, but it would be quite practicable to modify rather than reverse our proceedings twenty-one years ago. It must be remembered that at that time we not only reduced the wine duty, but adopted a sliding scale with reference to alcoholic strength. This was a distinct concession to France. Just as our Bradford and Manchester manufacturers desire *ad valorem* duties because they can beat the world in low-priced goods, the wine-growers of the South of France wished for an alcoholic scale because in cheap "weak" wines they are unrivaled. As an equal, or anything like an equal, tariff on all "cottons" or "woolens" taken in the mass shuts out our coarser goods, so a fixed duty on wine coarsers in favour of the stronger and dearer liquors of Spain and Portugal, and proportionately against the cheap vintages of the Gironde. The recovery of our liberty as regards wine would enable the English Government to make changes not in the slightest degree opposed to the principles of Free Trade, but still operating indirectly to the disadvantage of the French growers. If all wines are admitted at a fixed duty per gallon without reference to strength, the dearer and more alcoholic liquors of Spain will gain in competition with the cheaper wines of France now admitted at a reduced duty. We shall be perfectly free either to level up or to level down. "As Mr. Chamberlain said last August, 'If the Treaty negotiations with France should break down, the English Government would be perfectly justified in dealing with the wine and spirit duties as they thought best for the interests of the country.' He also pointed out that the duty on these articles was 'partly fiscal and partly moral,' so that, quite independent of revenue considerations, we might raise the tariff. At present the duty—varied as regards the degrees of proof spirit—practically admits nearly all French claret at a shilling a gallon, and imposes on all sherries and ports two and six-pence a gallon at least. Were we to raise the lower duty we should sensibly diminish the export of French wine to England; the cheaper clarets could not pay half a crown a gallon and be sold here at their present rate. Is M. Gambetta prepared to face the discontent of the South, the very districts that produce not only the greatest quantities of wine, but the fiercest politicians, as the annals of the country for three generations abundantly attest? Then, as regards spirits, in 1859 we levied a duty on their import of fifteen shillings a gallon; we now levy a little over ten shillings a gallon. Were we to revert to the tariff of twenty-one years ago as regards all alcoholic beverages Mr. Gladstone would be supported by the advocates of temperance, by the friends of British industry, and by men of all shades of politics. 'We don't want to fight,' but if driven to retaliation we should be united as one man. It will be for the French to consider whether for the sake of a minority of manufacturers they will imperil a commerce which has advanced from fourteen millions a year of French products sold to England before the Treaty to an annual average of forty-two millions during the last few years. On international grounds generally anything that diminishes cordiality between the two

countries is to be regretted. France especially has much to apprehend from isolation. She is not in the position in which she stood in 1860, when the Emperor Napoleon, victor in two great wars, had raised her to a commanding though dangerous eminence. Then no German existed to dispute with her the supremacy of Europe, and Russia and Austria had not only felt her power but were suitors for her alliance. At present she feels the results of 1870 in every direction, and England is the only Great Power on whose friendly feeling she can securely count. The real interests of the two countries are not opposed in any direction, and in Egypt both have a distinct gain in maintaining the *status quo* and in agreeing to exclude more or less all other European influence. If, however, the spirit which suggested and still sustains the Tunis expedition, and which has animated the negotiators in Paris last week, continues to prevail, English policy will suffer an inevitable change. We shall be drawn towards Germany, and Austria, and Italy, to the ultimate isolation of France. She, not we, would suffer most were Egypt to glide from under its present dual into a new international Protectorate, and in anything like a general Council of States she would find herself "sovereign alone." The policy of expansion and adventure that suited France for a time under the two Empires seems greatly out of place now. Europe is very different from what it was in 1811 or 1860. France itself is quite as strong, if not stronger, but her rivals have augmented their powers far beyond the proportion of her advance.

THE LADIES' LAND LEAGUE AND THE GOVERNMENT.

The Government have at last arrested three or four of the members of the Ladies' Land League. There was no alternative, unless the Irish Executive was prepared to stigmatise itself in the opinion of the public on both sides of St. George's Channel. The Ladies' Land League was declared illegal, and was, therefore, *ipso facto* suppressed ten days ago. Miss Parnell and the other members of the seditionist Sisterhood defied the Proclamation, and when they did not ignore it, noticed it only to denounce it. On Sunday they held a meeting in Dublin avowedly as a challenge to the Government, and it was publicly stated that similar assemblies of all the branches of the Association would take place on every Sunday "as a protest against the disposition of the police to make laws according to their own fancy." This left the Government no option. When women ostentatiously enrol themselves in the lists of the party hostile to law and order, there is only one rule which those who are responsible for the enforcement of order and law can observe. The Executive in matters of this kind can no more be a respecter of sex than of persons. An agitation led by revolutionary Amazons is as perilous a threat to the public peace as one the promoters of the League's name, laying the taxes and customs duties, exercising police supervision as in other parts of Italy, and even keeping troops there, on the understanding that they were not there for the purpose of watching or molesting the Pope, but simply protecting him against foreign enemies, as the French troops did during their occupation.

"But does your Excellency," I inquired, "think it possible to achieve this result?" The Monsignore answered, "I am not sufficiently well acquainted with the details of the leading Italian party, but, holding an Italian myself, I can only wish that some friendly understanding may be brought about that will satisfy both parties, thereby restoring the greatness of the Church and at the same time securing the freedom of Italy in a manner hitherto experienced."

I asked the Monsignore if there had not been some *pourparlers* on that subject when King Humbert was in Vienna. "I heard nothing," replied the Nuncio, "not having been here at the time; but Cardinal Haynald told me how extremely gracious the King and Queen were towards him. The Queen kissed his hands with devotion, thereby showing the reverence of the Royal family for the Church and her representatives. This, however," added the Monsignore, "is no novelty." The conversation then turned upon other topics.

the occupation of Rome, Italy could choose to be free, and become an independent State. Now, being mixed up with the Papal Question, she must necessarily suffer whenever any dispute arises in which the Roman Church is concerned. Her alliances depend more or less upon the good or ill will of the Powers towards the Pope. This would no longer be the case if the Pope were in possession of an independent territory. Only then would Italy become a really powerful State. "It has been urged," said my colleague, "that this could only be brought about after a war; but the idea is erroneous. Italian statesmen have fully appreciated the nature of the Italian Revolutionists. These, perhaps, will soon have other watchwords, aimed against the maintenance of existing institutions. A war, whether successful or otherwise, could hardly effect a satisfactory change. The end could be much better achieved by diplomatic pressure, since the Revolutionists would hardly venture to face the whole of Europe. At the same time Italian statesmen, acting under the pressure of necessity, would probably find a means of solving the problem in a manner that would easily help the Pope, the Church, the dynasty, and Italy herself, who would then be a really independent Power."

"Does your Excellency," I inquired, "share these opinions?" He replied, "There is much force in them." I asked, "What concessions, in your opinion, should be made to the Pope, in order to bring about a reconciliation between the Church and Italy?" He answered, "I have no authority to speak upon the matter, and should hardly like to give an opinion as a representative of the Church." I asked the Monsignore what he thought about the report that the Pope had sent to the King of Rome with a string of territory extending as far as Civita Vecchia. "I cannot," he replied, "express my own opinion; but in influential political circles this solution would be considered satisfactory, if it could be arrived at by means of friendly understanding." It is said in these circles that the Pope could only consider himself free when he could come and go *per mare* without crossing the territory of another Sovereign; but even this enclosure might form part of the Kingdom of Italy, provided that the Pope was able to exercise Sovereignty within therein. Italy could make the administration of the territory, lying in the Pope's name, laying the taxes and customs duties, exercising police supervision as in other parts of Italy, and even keeping troops there, on the understanding that they were not there for the purpose of watching or molesting the Pope, but simply protecting him against foreign enemies, as the French troops did during their occupation."

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PROGRAMME OF THE NATIONAL PARTY OF EGYPT.

The Syed Ahmed Bey Arabi sends to the *Times* the following exposition of the views and purposes of the party of which he has become the leader:—

CAIRO, Dec. 18.

1. The National party of Egypt accept the existing relations of Egypt with the Porte as the basis of their movement. That is to say, they acknowledge the Sultan Abdul Hamid Khan as their Suzerain and Lord as their actual Caliph or head of the Muhammadan religion; nor do they propose to displace his Empire, to alter their relationship. They acknowledge the Porte to the tribute to be paid by all to and military assistance in case of foreign war. At the same time, they are determined to defend their national rights and privileges, and to oppose by every means in their power the attempts of those who would reduce Egypt again to the condition of a Turkish Pashalik. They trust in the protecting Powers of Europe, and especially in England, to continue their guarantee of Egypt's administrative independence.

2. The National party express their loyal allegiance to the person of the reigning Khedive. They will continue to support Mohamed Tewfik's authority so long as he shall rule in accordance with justice and the law, and the fulfilment of his promises made to the people of Egypt in September, 1881. They declare, however, their intention to permit no renewal of that despotic reign of injustice which Egypt has so often witnessed, and to insist upon the exact execution of his promise of governing with a Council of Deputies (Mejlis Showra en Mawab) and giving the country freedom. They invite his Highness Mohammed Tewfik to act honestly in them in these matters, promising him their cordial help; but they warn him against listening to those who would persuade him to continue his despotic power, to betray their national rights, or to elude his promises.

The National party fully recognize the services rendered to Egypt by the Governments of England and France, and they acknowledge that all redress and justice that they obtain in the past have been due to them, and that they tender them their thanks. They recognize the European Control as a necessity in their financial position and the present continuance of it as the best guarantee of their prosperity. They declare their entire acceptance of the foreign debt as a matter of national honour—this although they know that it was incurred not for Egypt's benefit, but in the whole interest of a dishonest and irresponsible ruler; and they are ready to assist the Controllers in discharging the full national obligations. They look, nevertheless, upon the existing order of things as in its nature temporary, and avow it as their hope gradually to redeem the country out of the hands of its creditors. Their object is some day to free Egypt entirely in Egyptian hands. Also, there are not negligible imperfections of the Control, which they are ready to point out. They know that many abuses are committed by those employed by it, whether Europeans or others. They see some of these incapable, others dishonest, others too highly paid. They know that many offices, now held by strangers, would better discharge by Egyptians and at a fifth of the cost; and they believe there is still much waste and much injustice. They cannot understand that Europeans living in the land should remain free from exemption from the general taxation and from obedience to the general law.

3. The National party do not, however, propose to remedy these evils by any violent action; only they would protest against their unchecked continuance. They would have the Governments of France and England consider that, having taken the control of their finances out of the hands of the Egyptians, they are responsible for their prosperity, and are bound to see that efficient and honest persons only are employed by them.

I remarked that the Law of Guarantees was intended to solve this difficult problem. "That is doubtful," said the Monsignore, "but if driven to retaliation we should be united as one man. It will be for the French to consider whether for the sake of a minority of manufacturers they will imperil a commerce which has advanced from fourteen millions a year of French products sold to England before the Treaty to an annual average of forty-two millions during the last few years. On international grounds generally anything that diminishes cordiality between the two

countries is to be regretted. France especially has much to apprehend from isolation. She is not in the position in which she stood in 1860, when the Emperor Napoleon, victor in two great wars, had raised her to a commanding though dangerous eminence. Then no German existed to dispute with her the supremacy of Europe, and Russia and Austria had not only felt her power but were suitors for her alliance. At present she feels the results of 1870 in every direction, and England is the only Great Power on whose friendly feeling she can securely count. The real interests of the two countries are not opposed in any direction, and in Egypt both have a distinct gain in maintaining the *status quo* and in agreeing to exclude more or less all other European influence. If, however, the spirit which suggested and still sustains the Tunis expedition, and which has animated the negotiators in Paris last week, continues to prevail, English policy will suffer an inevitable change. We shall be drawn towards Germany, and Austria, and Italy, to the ultimate isolation of France. She, not we, would suffer most were Egypt to glide from under its present dual into a new international Protectorate, and in anything like a general Council of States she would find herself "sovereign alone." The policy of expansion and adventure that suited France for a time under the two Empires seems greatly out of place now. Europe is very different from what it was in 1811 or 1860. France itself is quite as strong, if not stronger, but her rivals have augmented their powers far beyond the proportion of her advance.

4. The National party disclaim all connexion with those who, in the interest of Powers jealous of Egypt's independence, seek to trouble the peace of the country—and there are many such—or with those who find their private advantage in disturbance. At the same time they are aware that a merely passive attitude will not secure their liberty in a land which is still ruled by a class to whom liberty is hateful. The silence of the people made Ismail Pacha's rule popular with the Egyptian, and silence now would save the town the price is considerably higher. Many people who invested eight or nine hundred pounds in land here some years ago could now sell at a profit of more than a hundred per cent. And each of the few Arab houses inhabited by Arabs which still remain is made to pay a high rent, and is let to a foreigner or later, and will fall into the covetous English clutch whenever the wave of temptation rolls high enough to sweep away the sentimental scruples and traditions of their turbaned possessors.

the old garden has been preserved, and you look down from the outer court into a jealousy walled enclosure filled with the only flowers the high-born Arab cared for, thickly planted bushes of orange and lemon trees, mixed with bushes of large-flowered, pink-tipped jessamine.

It is evident indeed that these houses, combined with the winter climate of Algiers, are exercising a very powerful attracting influence on wealthy English folk. Land at El Biar or Mustapha frequently sells for about £1,000 a hectare (or £400 an acre), and nearer the town the price is considerably higher. Many people who invested eight or nine hundred pounds in land here some years ago could now sell at a profit of more than a hundred per cent. And each of the few Arab houses inhabited by Arabs which still remain is made to pay a high rent, and is let to a foreigner or later, and will fall into the covetous English clutch whenever the wave of temptation rolls high enough to sweep away the sentimental scruples and traditions of their turbaned possessors.

THE VOYAGE OF THE "CEYLON."

(BY A PASSENGER.)

We spent a pleasant day at Marseilles and took up five new passengers. In the evening a few people dined with us from the shore; and after dinner, the quarter-deck being dressed with bunting, we danced until it was time to leave for Genoa, which we reached late in the evening. Next morning (Nov. 19th), owing to retariffing for an Italian ship being quarantined, we did not get permission to sail till late in the afternoon. At night we left, and had a fine run down the coast of Italy during the following day amongst the beautiful islands, and arrived at Naples early on the second morning, and had a splendid view of the bay as the sun rose over it and turned Vesuvius and the heights around it a rich purple. Here we had nearly four days' stay, and several went ashore for the time to get a change from the confinement of the ship. The first day most of us, I think, spent in visiting the Museums and Cathedrals, and the next with a drive along the Chiaia, where we expected to see the beauties of Naples. In the evening we went to the Opera. The next day, in parties of two and three, we went to Pompeii, and spent a long afternoon there. Our last day was spent by most of the party in ascending Mount Vesuvius. I wait till we reach the Sandwich Islands, where I hope to ascend a much finer burning mountain, the volcano of Kiraua in Hawaii. With Captain Lunham I took a lovely drive towards Baiae, "sailing" at Virgil's tomb on our way. As we drove back I saw the prettiest face I have seen since leaving England—that of a little peasant girl about fifteen years old, with a rich, matronly face, and brilliant cheeks, dark eyes, and black hair in ringlets on her forehead. I am sorry to say she ran with her smaller sisters after the carriage for pennies, of which, luckily, I had taken a supply, so we were able to enjoy a beautiful smile until we were out of sight. We sailed that evening, and on the morning of the 25th arrived at Palermo, the cleanest and best-built of all the foreign ports we have entered in the Mediterranean. The day was spent in visiting the semi-Moorish church which enjoys the blessing of self-government to aid Egypt in gaining for itself that blessing; but they are aware that no nation yet achieved liberty except by its own endeavours, and they are resolved to stand firm in the position they have won, trusting to God's help if all other be denied them.

CHRISTMAS IN ALGIERS.

The *Pall Mall Gazette* publishes the following letter, dated December 25, from a correspondent in Algiers:—

How is it possible for English eyes to realize that to-day is Christmas Day? By half past seven this morning mountains, upland, plain, and city were a blaze of what with us would be more than June sunshine. Out doors the ground is matted with wild marigolds, cattleya, and mimosa; there are birds chattering in every bush, and as one threads the gorges which seem the purple of the Atlas range. There is scarcely a change in the sunny outline till the sunset sun flushes sky and plain, and the sudden starlight comes balmy down on land and sea. And with this warmth the air, at any rate on the hills, is keen and bracing.

The streets of the town may be close and airless, but across the high promontory which the English and French villas are mostly built the Atlantic wind blows freshly and sweetly.

We arrived at Malta at daybreak, and almost before we anchored the coaling began, at the rate of 120 tons an hour, and soon those foolish enough to stand on board were black with the fine dust which covers one almost imperceptibly. Here we did little sight-seeing, and contented ourselves with visiting friends on shore and in the various men-of-war lying in the harbour. The next day we had a ball on board, and entertained a good number of friends, including a party of ladies and gentlemen from the *City of Calcutta*, which was lying at anchor having rung to something in her mast, having rung wrong. Early next morning we left Malta and four of our pleasant passengers behind, to go to every one's regret. They started from England intending to stop at Naples, but they found a difficulty in getting a suitable house there, so they came a little further with us. We arrived at the Pireus on Dec. 1, and spent a long day in Athens at the Museum and various ruins. The next day we left, and with cold weather and a strong head wind, slowly progressed to Constantinople, where we were two days late. As it was bitterly cold, however, no one, I think, regretted eventually the shortness of our stay, namely, three days. On December 8 we left for Smyrna, where we arrived on Saturday the 10th, and next day a steamer started in terrible fear of having to go to sea. The next day we had a revolver in his pocket, all of which had a very "new" look about them, and when we arrived at the station near the ruins and walked through a crowd of brigandine-looking idlers, there was a strong inclination shown to allow the butt of a pistol to protrude from the pocket. We were mounted amidst great dissatisfaction on a lot of very sad and skeleton-like ponies, with Turkish saddles and bridles made of string, tape, and other fragile materials. We spent a day at Rhodes visiting the old houses and armoury of the Knights, and admiring their walls, which have never been repaired, but are still in good preservation, and then went on to Alexandria where we were joined by new passengers. About half of our party have gone to Cairo, and will join us again at Suez. As we left Alexandria the wind began to rise, and when the pilot departed a heavy swell was up, and the ship was worthily named.

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NOTICE.

A four-page Supplement is published with this day's number of the MESSENGER, and will be delivered gratis with each copy of the paper. It contains our American news and an interesting variety of literary extracts.

Great Britain.

LONDON, JANUARY 4—5, 1882.

ENGLAND AND FRANCE.

The cordial understanding between England and France, which has now lasted for nearly thirty years, has undergone some rude strains of late. International alliances are by no means merely affairs of sentiment; in order to be durable and fruitful they must be based on common interests and objects, on mutual respect and reciprocal advantage. England might wish well to France and France to England, but the feeling on both sides, however sincere, would not sustain an alliance in default of some more solid interests in common. Where are we to look at the present moment for that community of interests which cements the friendships of nations? It exists, no doubt, in the abstract, but its recognition on either side of the Channel is very far from being reciprocal and equivalent. We went hand in hand with France in the Crimean war, and, later on, England made some sacrifices for the sake of the alliance in the Chinese and Syrian expeditions. A cloud came for a time between the two nations in 1859, and there were faults on both sides, no doubt; but the friendship was renewed and consolidated by the Treaty of Commerce, which seemed for a long time to place the cordial relations between England and France beyond the reach of accident. Each country benefited through the vast development of commercial intercourse—France certainly not the least—and it seemed impossible that so potent a bond of union between two friendly and neighbouring States should ever be voluntarily severed. In spite of sinister appearances we still believe it to be impossible. The negotiations have certainly not prospered so far, and the time is at hand when they must either be brought to a satisfactory conclusion or finally abandoned. The latter issue seems probable—indeed, almost inevitable—for the moment. England, indeed, can afford to accept it with complacency, so far as her commercial interests in general are concerned, for, though some of her trades and manufactures will suffer, and suffer heavily, for a time, yet the trade of England with France does not bear anything like the same proportion to the whole trade of the country as the French trade with England bears to the total trade of France. The greatest sufferer will, therefore, be France, as Frenchmen themselves are at last beginning to discern. But, apart from the injury to commercial interests, it cannot be doubted that the failure of the treaty negotiations will deal a severe blow to the cordiality of the Anglo-French alliance. The interests of the pocket are very sensitive, and when Englishmen find that France not only declines to trade with them, but treats their political and international interests with scant consideration, as she has seemed inclined to do of late, they will naturally begin to ask themselves whether, after all, the alliance is not something of the nature of the one-sided friendship described by Aristotle, where one party gives exceedingly much and receives exceedingly little in return. Certainly England is free from reproach in the matter. She has shown herself ready to act with France, and is only too anxious to trade with her. But action with France in the field of politics common to both has been not a little difficult, at any rate since the evil day when M. St. Hilaire was installed at the French Foreign Office. Even before that time we had found the hesitations and mutations of French policy capable of seriously impairing the action of the European concert. If the naval demonstration at Dalmatia was finally successful, it was mainly the action of France that brought it near to failure. The settlement of the Greek frontier question, again, was imperilled and postponed by the unaccountable vacillation of policy displayed by the French Government. These were both objects by which England set much store, and we certainly might have looked for a more cordial and sustained support from our friendly neighbour and ally. The whole affair of Tunis, again, has been conducted from the outset with a singular disregard of English views and susceptibilities on the subject. On the other hand, it cannot be said that England has been wanting in a loyal, not to say anxious, regard for the obligations imposed upon her by her desire for a cordial understanding with France. We have been content to follow the French lead in Egypt, certainly not because we regarded the interests of the two countries as identical or even commensurate, still less because we regarded the joint intervention as entirely politic or prudent, but mainly because France was urgent for friendship with England. The policy is apt to grow cold unless the terms are fairly equal and the advantages approximately reciprocal. If the protracted and disappointing negotiations concerning the commercial treaty had tended somewhat to chill the feeling of England towards France, it must be confessed that the policy attributed to M. Gambetta in regard to Egypt is likely rather to enhance than to diminish their effect. The policy of England towards Egypt was clearly defined in Lord Granville's last despatch. England desires to maintain the Control as it exists at present, and, so far as is consistent with its maintenance, to respect the independence of the Khedive's Government. She certainly has no wish either to extend the area of English and French interference in the internal affairs of the country, or to encourage the interference of any other European Power. We cannot but hope, therefore, that the Khedive will be able to maintain his authority or the disaffected leaders of the Egyptian army and to withstand the incessant intrigues by which, as we learn from our Correspondent at Constantinople, the Sultan is endeavouring to push his own interests in Egypt. But the people of England would view with serious apprehension any further interference with the internal affairs of Egypt. The idea of a joint Anglo-French military intervention would excite the

PARIS, FRIDAY, JANUARY 6, 1882.

PRICE 40 CENTIMES

deception, thought it best to take. The announcement that the English Cabinet had approved of a draft which it is only considering, "so far from being an indiscretion, was the deliberate result of a well-inspired purpose." If M. Gambetta, wishing to force the hand of the English Government, had made use of the *Journal Officiel* or the *Republique Francaise*, it would have called for no remark from us. It is not for Englishmen to judge the standard of diplomatic propriety which it pleases a French Minister to set up for himself. But when he employs the correspondent of an English newspaper as his instrument in forcing the hand of the English Government, and that correspondent proudly declares that he has been chosen for this high purpose, the combination is so remarkable that it ought not to pass without notice.

DEATH OF MR. BERNAL OSBORNE.

Mr. Ralph Bernal Osborne died on Wednesday evening at Bestwood Lodge, the seat of his son-in-law, the Duke of St. Albans, near Nottingham. The following biographical notice of the deceased gentleman is taken from the *Daily Telegraph*:

The death of Mr. Ralph Bernal Osborne awakens a wide-spread interest as it had occurred at a moment when the lamented gentleman occupied a seat in Parliament. Born in 1814, or, perhaps, two or three years earlier—as Mr. Osborne was in the habit of jokingly admitting when pressed about his exact age by contemporaries, like Sir John Stanley Errington and Lord Vivian, who had entered the army about the same time with him—the late Member for Waterford, which was the last of many constituencies that he represented in the House of Commons, was no ordinary man. It is too much the fashion to speak of Parliamentary humours, who have won part of their fame by their lively salutes of wit and sarcasm, banter, levelled on occasion alike at grave Ministers of State and obscure politicians of the House, as though they owed their success chiefly to mirthfulness and rudeness. The truth, however, is that sarcasm and railing, when deftly employed, are—like inventiveness, according to the well-known definition of Lord Beaconsfield—"great ornaments of debate," demanding to be successful, extensive knowledge, fine taste, and a natural talent. That Mr. Bernal Osborne knew when and how to employ these valuable gifts of an aggressive debater will be admitted by all his contemporaries in Parliament. Before adverturing, however, to Mr. Osborne's connection with the House of Commons, which commenced when he was returned for High Wycombe in 1841, and ended when he was beaten at Waterford in 1874, let us turn for a moment to his earlier career. He was the eldest of Mr. Bernal, who, having long represented Rochester in Parliament, had given up after death no slight amount of excitement in active circles, when his rare and valuable collection of antiquities and curiosities was offered for sale under the auctioneer's hammer. Mr. Ralph Bernal—for such, until 1814, was the name of the gentleman who broached his last yesterday in Nottinghamshire—was gazetted ensign in the 7th Regiment of Foot in 1831, and exchanged before long into the 7th Fusiliers. He was extremely popular in both regiments from his high spirits and brilliant humour, and no story was more frequently upon his lips than one in which he related the circumstances under which he first became a candidate for a seat in the House of Commons. He had accompanied some of his brother officers to a racing-meeting in Ireland at which a happy investment of some small stake happened to convert a horse cast into two hundred pounds, and at the same time overtures were made to him to become a candidate for Parliament. With that fund in his pocket, he came hurriedly over to England, when the general election in July, 1841, was at hand. High Wycombe was then a borough which was supposed likely to return an advanced Liberal; and it will be remembered that it was unsuccessfully wooed in this guise by Mr. Disraeli, who approached it with a letter of recommendation from Mr. Joseph Hume. Mr. Ralph Bernal was more fortunate than his long-time friend, the late Prime Minister, in winning the favour of the Buckinghamshire constituency; nor was it long before the new representative of High Wycombe gave abundant evidence in the House of Commons that he was destined to make his mark as a Member of Parliament.

Having left the Army, Mr. Bernal soon took a step with the material advantage to him in fighting the battle of life. In 1844 he won the hand of the daughter and only child of Sir Thomas Osborne. He assumed his wife's name by Royal licence, and with her he received an estate in Ireland, and a fortunate which, although not large, was more than sufficient to establish his independence, and to exonerate him from the imputation, so damaging in this wealthy country, to a young Member of Parliament, of making speeches and shaping his political course with a view to obtaining office.

That he played his cards well at St. Stephen's, between 1841 and 1847, is attested by the fact that in the latter year he was a candidate for the county of Middlesex, for which he and Lord Robert Grosvenor, and Lord Ebury, were returned in opposition to Colonel Wood. Mr. Osborne's early speeches on the hustings served only to enhance his reputation as a platform orator, and it was added to his "Lord Beaconsfield—a most competent orator upon such a subject—that, with the exception of the late Mr. James Clay, who so long sat for Hull, there was no better or more telling hustings speaker in Parliament than Mr. Osborne." The pages of "Hansard's Parliamentary Debates" reveal how frequently Mr. Osborne's voice was heard in the House of Commons after 1841, but it was not likely that the English Government would wish their own deliberations to be hurried by a premature disclosure of the subject of them, though it is quite conceivable that the French Government might wish the English Cabinet to be stimulated to more prompt action. "It was therefore considered"—by M. Gambetta being again understood—"both more adroit and more straightforward at once to inform the public of the accord being prepared and doubtful at this moment arrived at between the two Powers." M. Gambetta was so convinced of the excellence of his draft that he felt sure that the English Government would consent to make it their own, and that he would consequently be doing them a kindness by hurrying them into doing at once what they were certain to do in the end. "Hence it seemed"—to M. Gambetta—"understood, as before—that the moment had come for announcing the resolutions of France and England, and for notifying to the rest of Europe that it need not trouble itself with measures for supplying the inaction of those two Powers." Unfortunately, there were no resolutions of France and England in existence; for the deliberation with which the English seemed disposed to consider the draft instructions had made it impossible to arrive at any. It was not, however, by means of the press to announce resolutions before they were in existence; and this was the expedient which M. Gambetta, after due re-

most distinguished Ministers, and especially Sir James Graham, that the Member for Middlesex became a power in Parliament. His light and easy banter, and the dexterity with which he extracted fun from every subject that he handled, conducted to make Mr. Osborne's speeches generally popular in the country, and having sat for ten years as Member for Middlesex, he had no difficulty in obtaining a new seat at Dover when the general election of 1857 came round.

In the Ministry formed by Lord Aberdeen in December, 1852, Mr. Bernal Osborne accepted office, for the first and only time in his life. Secretary of State for India, under Sir James Graham, against whom many of his liveliest diatribes had been launched in Parliament. His tenure of office, for the protracted details of which he had little aptitude or taste, was not long continued, and when he reappeared, as member for Dover, in 1857, his position as a Parliamentary Independent, with his hand against every man and a jest or epigram ready for every occasion, became more sharply accentuated and defined. He lost his seat at Dover in April, 1857, to re-enter Parliament in August of the same year as member for Liskeard. Having resigned his seat for the Cornish borough in 1865, Mr. Osborne remained out of Parliament until he was sent there once more by Nottingham in the May of 1866. Returned for the city of Waterford in 1870, Mr. Osborne failed four years later to hold his seat, and had the modification of seeing his House of Lords, Mr. P. Power and Mr. O'Conor, elected in his stead. He told his friends, upon returning from the Irish election in 1874, that he would infinitely prefer facing the Nottingham "lamb" to offering himself again to a Waterford constituency. His absence from Parliament, where he had made for himself a distinct and peculiar position, was greatly missed, and the belief was generally held that a seat would soon be found for him. In this expectation, however, he was doomed to be disappointed, and his place in Parliament knew him no more. The charms of social life in London compensated him in some measure for his exclusion from the House of Commons, and the marriage of his second daughter to the Duke of St. Albans in 1874 was the source of happiness on all sides, and of personal satisfaction to himself. Much of his time was spent when he was at Bestwood, at Bestwood Park, which he had, in 1860, no *habitaculum* in the West and was more universally welcomed as a guest at the homes of his many friends. Dividing his time between the Reform Club, of which he had for years been a popular member, and the houses of acquaintances, who were always glad to receive him, and to listen with hearty appreciation to his sprightly talk, Mr. Bernal Osborne during the last few years of his life found himself little in harmony with the foreign policy of the Liberal party. His keen criticisms were always, however, tempered with a genial glow, and the riper of his wit—as polished as it was sharp—made clean and durable wounds. His loss will be widely felt in society and by the country at large, which does not possess too many politicians who know how to mingle strong opinions with calm sense and fine temper. Nor there be any indisposition among those who sat with him in Parliament to the humourists of the rare type in which he behaved himself so well with the mere jester or the kindly satirist, but that their position is attained, next to the native dower of bright talent, by wise knowledge of the ways of the world, and by the exercise of a nice discrimination and an unfailing fact.

POLITICAL GOSSIP.

The London correspondent of the *Manchester Guardian* wrote on Tuesday night: "It is generally believed that one of the greatest difficulties of the Government next session will be consequent on the attitude of the Irish landlords and their friends towards the Government. It is believed that the Act of last year, if the Conservatives can frame a motion dealing with the complaint so forcibly expressed in the landlords' meeting of this afternoon in such terms as to obtain the vote of the exasperated Parnellites, together with the support of men like Mr. Henage on the Ministerial side, it is thought they may go near to placing the Government in a minority, or at all events in a position of some difficulty. Of course one can say that the circumstances of the question, but political critics are inclined to believe that this is the case.

Mr. Walker has placed the fruit in this case is Mr. Romaine Walker, son of the Vicar of St. Saviour's Church, St. George's-square—quite able to build up a fortune, as he is an architect.

Some morning performances of *She Stoops to Conquer*, with Mrs. Langtry as the heroine, will shortly be given at the Haymarket.

Meanwhile the rehearsals of *Ours*, in which the new actress takes a part, are being prepared with.

The recent deaths of Captain Robert Goff and his intimate friend, Captain Pack-Beresford, take back a quarter of a century to one of the palmiest epochs of Irish racing.

Contemporary with the two good sportsmen that have just been cut off with similar suddenness, within a few days of each other, were the Marquis of Ormonde, Lord Lurgan, Captain Mitchell, and Sir Thomas Baring, whilst amongst the choice spirits which have since passed away may be mentioned Lord Howth, Ned Irwin, George Bryan, Christopher St. George, William Disney, Tom Nowcomen, Mr. Lenziel, Captain Gray, Michael Dunne, John Courtney, Colonel Westenra, the Marquis of Conyngham, Dr. O'Reilly, "Dog" Moore, George Vaughan, and "Noble Henry," the famous Marquis of Waterford.

Let me warn travellers going south not to be imposed upon by the official notice industriously circulated that the new St. Gotthard route will be open by the 1st of January.

It is true that trains are expected to run through the tunnel itself; but the lines of communication with the tunnel cannot be completed, as I have already announced before the middle of next year. Until the tunnel is opened, the road from Lucca, across the lake to St. Gotthard, will be disposed of in the form of last year, that the motion preventing him from being sworn at the table will be carried by the votes of many and the abstention of others, and that if the rules are not reformed before the subsequent debate on the Address the Royal Speech is read at the adjourned sitting, and the motion is made for the Address. 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Great Britain.

LONDON, JANUARY 5—6, 1882.

THE EUROPEAN PROSPECT.

The profound distrust which a succession of wars and rumours of wars has engendered in the public mind, and the obligation under which the Rulers of powerful States still seem to lie of maintaining vast bodies of men under arms, are quite enough to account for the nervous, we might almost say the credulous, anxiety so widely entertained concerning the long-continued preservation of public peace. But we have good grounds for pointing out that there are not a few solid and satisfactory reasons for contemplating the general European Situation, as far as the issues of peace and war are concerned, with less concern than it appears to inspire in the breasts of many too nervous observers of Continental affairs. It is now nearly eleven years since peace was signed between Germany and France. How many people believed that so long a period would elapse without our having to witness the outbreak of a fresh conflict between these two Powers? Why has it not occurred? Why have so many confident prophecies been incorrect, and why has general expectation been baffled? It cannot be because France has failed to recover her strength to the degree that was expected of her. On the contrary, her recovery of strength, of wealth, and of organisation, has been so rapid that it has been regarded as little short of miraculous. On the other hand, it cannot be in consequence either of any subsidence of the fears of Germany lest the French people should again prove themselves formidable antagonists, seeing that nowhere is the power of France more respected than in the Fatherland. But so it is, that as the years roll on the two countries seem to be farther off rather than nearer to a renewal of their old struggle, and at the present moment they seem less likely to fight than they were four or five years ago. The truth is, both France and Germany have to take other things into account beside their own policy, their own armies, and their own national sentiments. Were any one to confine his attention to the news from Italy, he might not unreasonably be led to conclude that from that country might at any moment proceed the spark that is to set Europe in a blaze. The Italians for a time cried out for that portion of their neighbour's territory which it pleased them to call Italia Irredenta. Then they professed themselves dissatisfied with the Treaty of Berlin. Next they were wounded and irritated by the action of France in Tunis. At the present moment the Pope is supposed to be causing them much anxiety. But on each of these occasions, some good and efficient reason can be discovered why the Italians are content to bark and abstain from biting. Just as Germany, before attacking France, or France before attacking Germany, would have to ascertain and allow for the disposition of other Powers, so Italy has been compelled to inquire if the preponderance of European strength could be secured for the assertion of the claim to the Trentino, for opposition to the French Protectorate in Tunis, or for dislike to the Austrian occupation of Bosnia and Herzegovina. On the whole, the Italians find that it is better to "sit still," just as France and Germany have found it better to sit still. No doubt a world of intrigues and conspiracies are in motion at the present moment, that more or less threaten the maintenance of European peace. But the persons who are intriguing have to get the balance of military power on their side before venturing to appeal to the sword; and this is by no means an easy operation. The various schemes, ambitions, and aspirations that are to be discerned on the Continent counterbalance each other. One State is deterred from setting its arms in motion out of fear or ignorance as to what neighbouring States would do if that decisive step were taken. Thus, though the phrase "an armed camp" is still applicable to the Continent, the various Armies that constitute it may be regarded, in one sense, rather as police employed by the different States to watch each other. They are like our own army and constabulary in Ireland, which are purely defensive, and may remain purely defensive for an indefinite time. It will, perhaps, be said that this is to reduce their existence to an absurdity, since every State would be equally safe if no State maintained a large armed force. But it is an absurdity that is uncommonly like a truth; and if the Great Powers could be persuaded of it, the condition of mankind would be sensibly ameliorated.

There is yet another reason for taking comfort amid all the ugly and disquieting rumours that reach us daily; and it is this. The great Continental Rulers have something more to think of besides setting large armies in motion for wars of aggression. Domestic politics in all these countries grow yearly more and more embarrassing and more and more pressing, and though it may be true that weak Governments sometimes resort to war to escape the embarrassments of peace, it is much more true, as a rule, that internal politics divert the attention both of rulers and the ruled from the territory and the affairs of their neighbours. Whether we regard M. Gambetta, Prince Bismarck, Count Kalnoky, Signor Depretis, or General Ignatius—they are abundantly

harassed just at present by domestic questions, and how to keep the peace at home may well occupy their thoughts far more than how to instigate war abroad. M. Gambetta has, after long procrastination, assumed the reins of power, but the event which was to bring consternation to Europe has only brought embarrassment to himself. Yet, difficult as may be the position in which he finds himself, his perplexities are exceeded by those of the Imperial Chancellor; while nobody would believe in the stability of the Cabinet presided over by Signor Depretis, were it not that that Statesman seems to have acquired the art of becoming a political charlatan. All these considerations, and they might be added to serve to encourage the hope that though the cry of "Wolf!" is still perpetually being raised, it will still prove a false alarm. It would be unwise to cultivate an apathetic sense of security; but, as the German Emperor has once again declared, the political barometer on the Continent at present points to Fair.—*Standard*.

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A NEW IDEAL OF GOVERNMENT.

The speeches delivered by Mr. Bright and Mr. Chamberlain supply but little matter for comment so far as their substance is concerned. The junior member for Birmingham seldom speaks indeed without admitting the public to a fuller acquaintance with his political temper and his ways of thought; and on Thursday night he was in an especially candid mood of self-disclosure. He lets us know exactly what is his ideal of good government, and in what respect our present imperfect system of legislation fails to satisfy it. That ideal is as nearly as possible framed upon the model of the organisation which Mr. Chamberlain has worked so successfully in the great town which he represents. On the one hand, there is "the people"—meaning thereby the electoral majority by whom Mr. Chamberlain's party was placed in power; on the other hand, there are the dozen or so of gentlemen who "meet in one room," and who constitute "the only members of the Government" whom Mr. Bright "knows about." There is, it is true, a Parliament also; but this body plays a very insignificant part in the great democratic scheme. It consists of a majority which is, or ought to be, the obedient instrument for carrying out the projects placed before them by that junta of delegates of "the people" who used to be called the Queen's Ministers; and of a minority which makes it its business to "obstruct" the execution of these projects, and which requires to be suppressed accordingly. What particular projects are to be placed before this minority and forced upon this minority is a matter within the exclusive cognizance of the junta aforesaid: they are contained in a "mandate" theoretically supposed to have been delivered to this little committee of autocrats, but in reality evolved by them out of a consciousness mysteriously furnished with an intuitive knowledge of the people's needs and wishes. There is obviously no place in this system for a deliberative assembly, or for the rights, privileges, or methods of procedure which such assemblies are wont to exercise and follow. It reduces all legislation and administration to a simple arrangement between two parties: the "people," meaning the chance majority of the electorate for the time being, and a committee of delegates acting under the authority of a sort of secret plebiscite. It is easy to understand the attractions which such a system possesses for politicians of Mr. Chamberlain's views and temper: what is not easily comprehensible is how men calling themselves Liberals should fail to see in it the realization of an absolute tyranny as any individual despot, adept at the arts of the demagogue, has ever inflicted on a community.—*St. James's Gazette*.

Mr. Chamberlain's exposition of the difficulties which the existing rules of parliamentary procedure place in the way of legislation was characterised by his customary lucidity and force. Facts speak for themselves with an eloquence which no orator can rival; and Mr. Chamberlain, confining himself to a statement of indisputable facts, proved once more how necessary is the action which the Government is about to take. It is difficult to exaggerate the utter break-down of the parliamentary machine. Three years ago Lord Hartington pointed out that the restoration of the authority of Parliament was the necessary preliminary to any work of internal or social reform, for even then the accumulation of arrears of legislation was passing rapidly into the stage of hopelessness. The work of restoration has been delayed so long that, to employ Lord Salisbury's metaphor, we cannot even get our bread and butter cut until we sharpen our scabbard. It is impossible to take any step for the dismemberment of other Powers, so Italy has been compelled to inquire if the preponderance of European strength could be secured for the assertion of the claim to the Trentino, for opposition to the French Protectorate in Tunis, or for dislike to the Austrian occupation of Bosnia and Herzegovina. On the whole, the Italians find that it is better to "sit still," just as France and Germany have found it better to sit still. No doubt a world of intrigues and conspiracies are in motion at the present moment, that more or less threaten the maintenance of European peace. But the persons who are intriguing have to get the balance of military power on their side before venturing to appeal to the sword; and this is by no means an easy operation. The various schemes, ambitions, and aspirations that are to be discerned on the Continent counterbalance each other. One State is deterred from setting its arms in motion out of fear or ignorance as to what neighbouring States would do if that decisive step were taken. Thus, though the phrase "an armed camp" is still applicable to the Continent, the various Armies that constitute it may be regarded, in one sense, rather as police employed by the different States to watch each other. They are like our own army and constabulary in Ireland, which are purely defensive, and may remain purely defensive for an indefinite time. It will, perhaps, be said that this is to reduce their existence to an absurdity, since every State would be equally safe if no State maintained a large armed force. But it is an absurdity that is uncommonly like a truth; and if the Great Powers could be persuaded of it, the condition of mankind would be sensibly ameliorated.

The announcement has a singularly occlusive appearance, and no secret need be felt if in a day or two the whole story is denounced as apocryphal. It is true, what becomes of that alarming military dictatorship which has hung like a thundercloud over Egyptian affairs? That an under-secretary should convert Arabi from an agitator into a harmless official is perhaps not impossible; but if the army, which does not share his enthusiasm, is to be convinced to submit, it is clear that the dangers so eloquently descended upon during these last weeks have been wholly imaginary. A Gambettist organ energetically denies M. de Blowitz's account of negotiations concern-

ing an Anglo-French interference; and, indeed, that arbiter of European destiny himself must perceive that it is scarcely worth while to move troops, when the whole affair can be settled by throwing a trifling sop to Arabi Bey. This too complete and opportune demonstration that at least two Calibans are bewitching themselves about nothing will leave, however, the suspicion that the public has not yet been told the truth about the condition of Egyptian affairs. Meanwhile, Gordon Pacha states his views on the Egyptian question. Briefly, they are that Sheriff Pacha is probably the only Egyptian Minister whose integrity is unimpeachable; that it is ridiculous to expect any good thing from Tewfik, or any of the class to which he belongs; and that troubles were always inevitable from the chaotic and feeble nature of the system set up in Egypt by the Western Powers. As for the prosperity of Egypt, about which we hear so much, Gordon Pacha laughs at it. The finances, he admits, are prosperous under Egyptian management, but the Egyptian people are as miserable before Arabi Bey as may be the humbug he is painted by some; but, at any rate, his leading ideas are enforced by this highly competent and independent witness. This country, so full of philanthropy where it is not called upon to meddle at all, is actually exploiting Egypt for its own benefit, without any genuine regard for the Fellahs. Its policy is fundamentally bad, and its interest, as well as the morality it is fond of professing, demands that it should make the encouragement of a national party in Egypt its first aim.—*Globe*.

POLITICAL AND SOCIAL ITEMS.

(FROM THE "DAILY NEWS.")

The Prime Minister arrived at his official residence in Downing-street from Hawarden Castle on Thursday evening. He was joined at Chester by the Right Hon. W. E. Forster, who had left Dublin for London expressly to attend the meeting of the Cabinet to-day (Friday).

We are requested to state that of the net proceeds of the concert, which will be given at the vicars of the catastrophe at the Royal Theatre, Vienna, will be given by special desire of Count Karoly, the Austro-Hungarian Ambassador, to an English charity.

We learn that since Mr. Errington's private and unofficial mission to the Vatican has come to an end several other persons connected with Ireland have also, on their own responsibility, interviewed the authorities of the Papal Court in order to make known their views on Irish questions.

We understand that intelligence received by the last mail from official quarters in the Cape Colony is much more encouraging with regard to the probable settlement of the serious difficulty with the Basutos. It is said to be not unlikely that the Government will employ Mr. John Moffat, son of the venerable missionary, Bishop.

A correspondent in Natal, who writes on Dec. 3d, calls attention to the singular conduct of the Natal Government in regard to the motion protesting against the restoration of Cetewayo which Mr. Robinson brought forward in the Legislative Council. In the first instance, the Colonial Secretary announced that it was the intention of the Government to vote against the motion, but at the adjourned sitting he withdrew his opposition to it, under instructions, it is said, from the Governor. The consequence was that more than one independent member of the Council who would have voted with the Government against the motion had no opportunity of recording their dissent.

COURT AND FASHIONABLE NEWS.

OSBORNE, THURSDAY.

The Queen and Princess Beatrice drove out yesterday afternoon, attended by Lady Waterpark; and her Majesty walked with the Princess this morning. Lord Rowton and Lieut.-General the Right Hon. Sir Henry Ponsonby, K.C.B., had the honour of dining with the Queen and Royal Family yesterday. Lord Rowton left Osborne to-day.

Earl Granville came up to London on Thursday afternoon by mail train from Dover. He drove direct to the Foreign Office, and had an interview with Sir Charles Dilke.

Sir Rivers Wilson returned to London on Thursday morning from Paris, where he has been negotiating for a commercial treaty.

A marriage is arranged, and will shortly take place, between Major the Hon. George Napier, son of General Lord Napier of Magdala, and Alice, only daughter of Mr. John Beaufort, of the Lodge, Coventry, and The Shave, Staffordshire.

It has not yet been definitely settled where Mr. Osborne's remains will be interred. Meanwhile marked sympathy is felt for the Duke and Duchess of St. Albans, who have received numerous messages of condolence from various distinguished personages throughout the country.

THE TRANSVAAL GOLD FIELDS.

The Durban correspondent of the *Standard* says:—As was expected, the action of the Volksraad in repealing the Proclamation throwing the Gold Fields open to all, and granting to Mr. Benjamin the entire monopoly of them, and thereby ruining the miners who are now working there, has given rise to intense excitement and indignation in that district. The Gold Fields are most flourishing, and the men engaged are doing well. By them the transference of their property to our sare; for even non-party legislation is impossible until procedure is reformed. Yet probably the most intrepid reformer will shrink from the changes which will be required before the new code of procedure is made as effective as the unwritten law which prevailed before. Obstruction was reduced to a system by Mr. Lowther and Mr. Parnell. The informal *culture* which was arranged between the Whigs and enforced by the rigorous discipline of party, and the inexorable canons of the social law to which all members used to bow, exercised an effective authority over the deliberations of the House of Commons, which no code that is likely to be accepted for some time yet can possibly exert. If we may judge from ministerial utterances, their proposals will not lack vigour; but here, as elsewhere, the most thoroughgoing proposals are most likely to be accepted by public opinion, because they will be really efficient.—*Pall Mall Gazette*.

THE EGYPTIAN RIDDLE.

Egyptian news at present is little but a succession of conundrums. Arabi Bey, it seems, been made Under-Secretary for War; and the military incident is regarded as closed by his appointment:—

The announcement has a singularly occlusive appearance, and no secret need be felt if in a day or two the whole story is denounced as apocryphal. It is true, what becomes of that alarming military dictatorship which has hung like a thundercloud over Egyptian affairs?

That an under-secretary should convert Arabi from an agitator into a harmless official is perhaps not impossible; but if the army, which does not share his enthusiasm, is to be convinced to submit, it is clear that the dangers so eloquently descended upon during these last weeks have been wholly imaginary.

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ing an Anglo-French interference; and, indeed, that arbiter of European destiny himself must perceive that it is scarcely worth while to move troops, when the whole affair can be settled by throwing a trifling sop to Arabi Bey.

This too complete and opportune demonstration that at least two Calibans are bewitching themselves about nothing will leave, however, the suspicion that the public has not yet been told the truth about the condition of Egyptian affairs. Meanwhile, Gordon Pacha states his views on the Egyptian question.

Briefly, they are that Sheriff Pacha is probably the only Egyptian Minister whose integrity is unimpeachable;

it is ridiculous to expect any good thing from Tewfik, or any of the class to which he belongs;

and that troubles were always inevitable from the chaotic and feeble nature of the system set up in Egypt by the Western Powers.

As for the prosperity of Egypt, about which we hear so much, Gordon Pacha laughs at it.

The finances, he admits, are prosperous under Egyptian management, but the Egyptian people are as miserable before Arabi Bey as may be the humbug he is painted by some;

but, at any rate, his leading ideas are enforced by this highly competent and independent witness.

This country, so full of philanthropy where it is not called upon to meddle at all, is actually exploiting Egypt for its own benefit, without any genuine regard for the Fellahs. Its policy is fundamentally bad, and its interest, as well as the morality it is fond of professing, demands that it should make the encouragement of a national party in Egypt its first aim.—*Globe*.

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THE FRENCH FASHIONABLE NEWS.

PARIS, SUNDAY, JANUARY 8, 1882.

FREAKS OF FASHION.

Since Englishwomen began to be a law unto themselves in the matter of what the fashion of their clothing shall be, a sincerity that in some instances is simply appalling has been the order of the day. With a frankness that may theoretically be a virtue, but when carried to extremes quite topsy over to side's, they have shown to the world every defect and shortcoming that the Frenchwoman, when she led the fashions, habitually and generally concealed. Was it not English ladies who, in the days of Queen Victoria, were the most conspicuously ugly? And what becomes of the Frenchwoman when she wears a "frock" or a "tunic" or a "tunicette" or a "tunicette"? And what becomes of the Frenchwoman when she wears a "tunic" or a "tunicette" or a "tunicette"? And what becomes of the Frenchwoman when she wears a "tunic" or a "tunicette" or a "tunicette"?

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Great Britain.

LONDON, JANUARY 7—8, 1882.

ENGLAND AND FRANCE.

It is instructive to note the very different effect which the announcement of the failure of the Anglo-French negotiations has produced in England and in France respectively. With us the prevailing feeling is one of relief tempered with regret. We perfectly understand that our trade with France will suffer considerably from the operation of the new tariff. We quite expect that France will buy less of our products than she has done, and that the curtailment of the French demand will for a time be injurious to several branches of trade; and we are sorry that it should be so. But this injury, we are persuaded, will not be permanent. We are confident in our ability to open up new markets for the products which France may exclude, more especially as alteration of her tariff will tend to divert trade into new routes, and at the same time, by increasing the cost of production in France, will make her less able to compete with us abroad. And, accordingly, the return of our Commissioners has not disturbed our equanimity. On the contrary, there is rather a feeling of relief that the worst is now known, and that the harassing uncertainty as to our future trade relations with France, by which business has too long been restricted and disorganized, has at length been removed. Not a word of disapproval of the action of the Government has been heard, but everywhere, and by men of all shades of political opinion, the course they have taken is cordially supported, and the Commissioners are accorded well-merited praise for the faithfulness with which they have expressed and given effect to the wishes of the country. In France, on the other hand, the rupture of the negotiations has caused a flutter of excitement. The present and the past Government alike are being blamed for want of skill or knowledge in their conduct of affairs. Recriminations and reproaches are being bandied about, and in many quarters very serious alarm is expressed as to the effect upon French commerce of the lapsing of the existing treaty. And there are good reasons why the failure to conclude a treaty should be regarded much more seriously in France than it is in England. To begin with, we buy much more from her than she does from us. On an average of years she has imported from us goods to the value of about £24,000,000 per annum, and has sent us goods to the value of about £10,000,000. Nor is it only that we are the better customer of the two; our custom is also far more essential to France than hers is to us. We take between a sixth and a seventh of her total exports, while she takes only about a twelfth part of ours. Our exports to her, moreover, consist mainly of necessities for which, if she does not buy them, we shall doubtless be able to find other purchasers. Her exports to us, on the other hand, are largely made up of luxuries for which it will be difficult to find other markets. Both in regard to quality and to kind, therefore, our purchases are vastly more important to her than are to us, and from a simultaneous curtailment of purchases such as is only too likely to take place, she will certainly suffer most. It is almost inevitable, also, that failure to conclude a treaty with England must involve inability on the part of the French Government to satisfy treaties provisionally arranged with other nations, and to which it is to be presumed France attaches considerable importance, as otherwise she would not have entered into them. If, for instance, the treaty with Belgium is ratified, the result will be that goods from Belgium will pay much lower duties than those levied upon our products under the general tariff. And, as a consequence of this, no matter how much the French authorities may strive to prevent it, English goods will be sent into France through Belgium. Such an alteration in the course of trade, however, would obviously be very injurious to the French ports, from which it would divert traffic, and if the Protectionist party in the Chambers are reinforced, as they are certain to be by those interested in the prosperity of the seaports, they are likely to be able to prevent the ratification of the Belgian Treaty if, indeed, the Government does not of its own accord abandon it. It would, of course, be different if England and France agreed to accord each other the most favoured nation treatment. Then traffic between the two nations, although diminished in volume, would, in the main, continue to flow in the old channel. But this solution of the difficulty appears to be unacceptable to the French Government, and, failing it, the Belgian and possibly other treaties seem to have a poor chance of ratification. There is the probability, also, that by imposing heavy burdens upon our products, France will deprive herself of some portion of her present transit trade. It is notorious that considerable quantities of English goods are now sent into Italy and Spain through France, and the tendency of the new general tariff must be to convert this indirect into a direct trade with us, especially as we have it in our power greatly to assist such a movement. The lapsing of the existing French treaty will leave us free to deal as we think best with our wine duties, and by a modification of these we

can do much to develop trade with Spain and Italy. As the result of our altered relations with France, it will probably be best for us to abandon all thought of reducing the duty on light wines below the minimum of 1s. per gallon. For the sacrifice of revenue which a reduction, say to a minimum of 6d. a gallon, would entail, the stimulus to an increased consumption of non-intoxicating wines, beneficial though that might be, would not in itself afford an adequate compensation. It may, indeed, be doubted whether a reduction of 6d. a gallon would ever reach the consumer, and, in any case, if only the social benefits to be derived from the increased consumption of such beverages are to be considered, it cannot be doubted that we have other and better ways of disposing of any surplus revenue. But if by a reduction in the scale for wines exceeding 26 degrees of alcoholic strength we can stimulate our trade with other nations of Southern Europe, and also with our own colonies, the reduction ought certainly to be made, especially as it is admitted that the present jump from 1s. on a wine of 26 degrees to 2s. 6d. on one which may only exceed that strength by a degree or two is bad in theory and pernicious in practice. It is to be hoped, therefore, that our Government will loss no time in availing itself of its newly acquired freedom. It can now negotiate the condition of Ireland more easily than formerly, and as both are anxious to conclude treaties with us, agreements calculated to develop our commercial intercourse with them and to bring direct to us trade which now is transacted through France are likely than before to be concluded.—*Economist.*

THE REFORM OF PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE.

The *Standard* says:—The Cabinet met on Friday, and separated without arriving at any definite conclusion as to the form in which the *culture* is to be proposed to the House of Commons next session. Mr. Gladstone will certainly propose an arrangement by which questions asked of Ministers before the House proceeds to the Orders of the Day may be grouped under heads that will naturally suggest themselves. It may be said with equal confidence that the Cabinet will endorse the proposals of the Speaker and Sir Erskine May to prohibit motions for adjournment at question time, except under special and rare conditions. The suggestions are reasonable enough. But it must be clearly understood that the *culture* in any shape, and whatever the modifications which it may assume, must involve a very extensive disfranchisement of the constituents. To put an end to debate by closing the mouths of the Opposition at the will of Ministers is simply to hand over the government of the country bodily to the majority for the time being, without limit or control. Ministers insist upon a power while to move troops, when the whole affair can be settled by throwing a trifling sop to Arabi Bey. This too complete and opportune demonstration that at least two Cabinets have been distressing themselves about nothing, will leave, however, the suspicion that the public has not yet been told the truth about the condition of Egyptian affairs. Meanwhile, Gordon Pacha states his views on the Egyptian question. Briefly, they are that Sherif Pacha is probably the only Egyptian Minister whose integrity is unimpeachable; that it is ridiculous to expect any good thing from Tewlik, or any of the class to which he belongs; and that troubles would always be inevitable from the chaotic and feeble nature of the system set up in Egypt by the Western Powers. As for the prosperity of Egypt, about which we hear so much, Gordon Pacha laughs at it. The finances, he admits, are prosperous under Egyptian management, but the Egyptian people are as miserable as before. Arabi Bey may be the hubub, but in painted by some; but, at any rate, his leading ideas are enforced by this highly competent and independent witness. This country, so full of philanthropy where it is not called upon to meddle in, is actually exploiting Egypt for its own benefit, without any genuine regard for the Fellahs. Its policy is fundamentally that it is of professing demands that it should make the encouragement of a national party in Egypt its first aim.—*Globe.*

COURT AND FASHIONABLE NEWS.

OSBORNE, FRIDAY.

The Queen and Princess Beatrice drove out yesterday afternoon, attended by the Dowager Marchioness of Ely; and her Majesty walked this morning with Princess Beatrice. Lord Carlingford (Lord Privy Seal) arrived at Osborne yesterday, and had the honour of dining with the Queen and the Royal Family. Lord Carlingford left for London this morning. The Dowager Countess of Lisburne had the honour of being received by the Queen yesterday.

The Prince of Wales, who is the guest of Prince and Princess Christian at Cumberland Lodge, Windsor Great Park, has arrived with Mr. T. Garton's pack of foxhounds at Bellingbarrow Park. The Marquess of Lorne will sail from the Mersey on Wednesday next, in the Allan Line Royal steamer *Caspian*, for Halifax, to resume his official duties as Governor-General of Canada. The Marquess will be accompanied by Colonel de Winton, military secretary, and Mr. and Lady Frances Balfour. Lady Frances, who is a sister of the Marquis of Lorne, will, we understand, discharge the duties at the Court at Ottawa which would ordinarily be undertaken by the Princess Louise until the Princess herself arrives later in the year.

The Duke of Cambridge returned on Friday to Gloucester House, Park-lane, from visiting Lord and Lady Fitzhardinge at Berkeley Castle, the Duke's visit being abridged by the lamented death of Lieut.-General Hon. James Macdonald, his attached friend and private secretary.

The German Ambassador and Count Alexander and Countess Marie Minster returned to the German Embassy on Friday from a visit to the Earl and Countess of Derby at Knowsley. Count Alexander Münster left by last night's mail for Germany.

The Earl of Northbrook left town on Friday soon after the separation of the Cabinet Ministers, on his return to Stratton Park, near Winchester.

The Earl of Seaford has left Claridge's Hotel for Craigen Castle, Milnguir, N. B.

The remains of the late Viscount Holmsley, M.P., are to be brought from Madeira to Duomo Park for interment in the family vault. The Earl of Fifeysworth will leave London in order to attend his son's funeral.

Count H. Bismarck returned to the German Embassy on Friday from the Continent, in order to resume his duties as Second Secretary of the Embassy.

Lord John Manners is still confined to his room, a slight attack of gout having retarded his recovery from his recent accident.

The Hon. James K. Howard, late Commissioner of Woods and Forests, who has been indisposed for some time past at his seat, Hazelby House, Hants, is the Post regretfully to learn, in a very precarious condition.

THE POLITICAL PROSPECT.

The *Saturday Review*, discussing the political prospect at the commencement of a new year, remarks:—It cannot be said that politics wear a cheerful aspect at the beginning of the year, but the state of Europe is less alarming than the condition of the United Kingdom:—

In glancing successively round points in the circle of public affairs, the political observer may exusably sustain as long as possible from directing his attention to domestic politics, and especially to the state of Ireland. In that unhappy country there is no diminution of crime or of anarchy; and the popular demagogues is faithfully represented by the impudent language of male and female demagogues, and by the circumstances of the most recent murders. There is no doubt that the Government is anxiously bent on discovering some means of restoring order and of protecting the property which

remains. Their culpability consists in their former slackness in repressing an organization which, with feeble credit, they hoped to disarm by extravagant concessions. Some of the Ministers seem inclined to connive at the extension to England and Scotland of the practice of legislative delegation. The precedent of the Irish Land Act has already depressed proprietors of all kinds of the unquestioned security which it lately entailed. With fatal blindness, capitalists, who will assuredly be the next victims, have in some instances encouraged designs for the plunder of landowners. The wealthier members of the Farmers' Alliance fail to discern the inevitable result of their proposed robbery of landlords in the demand of the rest of the agricultural population for the subdivision of farms. One of the most uncomfortable circumstances of the present state of political affairs is that no substitutes can be found, or even desired, for the actual holders of power. Even if there were a Conservative chief as wise as Sir Robert Peel, with a party as well disciplined as his followers, the Opposition could not prudently undertake the restoration of order in Ireland. The factious opposition from which the Government, notwithstanding the querulous injustice of some of its members, has been almost wholly exempt, would be instantly organized against a Conservative Ministry. The difficulty will probably not arise in practice, because the majority returned at the general election is still unbroken. The more hopeless the condition of Ireland, the deeper the indignation of the elderly classes of the community, the more fulsome is the adulation which Liberal politicians bestow on Mr. Gladstone. It is true that his abilities and his industry become more marvellous as they prove themselves to be unimpaired by age; but the vigour of a dangerous Minister is not a subject for unqualified satisfaction.

THE EGYPTIAN RIDDLE.

Egyptian news at present is little but a succession of conundrums. Arabi Bey has, it seems, been made Under-Secretary for War; and the military incident is regarded as closed by his appointment:—

The announcement has a singularly accidental appearance, and no surprise need be felt if in a day or two the whole story is denounced as apocryphal. It is to be true, what becomes of that alarming military dictatorship which has hung like a thundercloud over Egyptian affairs? That an under-secretaryship should convert Arabi from an agitator into a harmless official is perhaps not improbable; but if the army, which does not share his emoluments, is thus suddenly reduced to submission, it is clear that the dangers so eloquently depicted upon these last weeks have been wholly imaginary. A Gambetta organ energetically denies M. de Blouy's account of negotiations concerning an Anglo-French interference; and, indeed, that writer of European destiny himself perceives that it is scarcely worth while to move troops, when the whole affair can be settled by throwing a trifling sop to Arabi Bey. This too complete and opportune demonstration that at least two Cabinets have been distressing themselves about nothing, will leave, however, the suspicion that the public has not yet been told the truth about the condition of Egyptian affairs. Meanwhile, Gordon Pacha states his views on the Egyptian question. Briefly, they are that Sherif Pacha is probably the only Egyptian Minister whose integrity is unimpeachable; that it is ridiculous to expect any good thing from Tewlik, or any of the class to which he belongs; and that troubles would always be inevitable from the chaotic and feeble nature of the system set up in Egypt by the Western Powers. As for the prosperity of Egypt, about which we hear so much, Gordon Pacha laughs at it. The finances, he admits, are prosperous under Egyptian management, but the Egyptian people are as miserable as before. Arabi Bey may be the hubub, but in painted by some; but, at any rate, his leading ideas are enforced by this highly competent and independent witness. This country, so full of philanthropy where it is not called upon to meddle in, is actually exploiting Egypt for its own benefit, without any genuine regard for the Fellahs. Its policy is fundamentally that it is of professing demands that it should make the encouragement of a national party in Egypt its first aim.—*Globe.*

ECHOES OF THE WEEK.

To the Christmas death-roll must be added the name of Mr. William Harrison Ainsworth, the novelist, who passed away Tuesday last, at the ripe age of seventy-seven. As a young man of twenty he wrote a romance called "Sir John Chiverton," which earned the warm admiration of Sir Walter Scott. Sir Walter, you know, has been dead fifty years. Mr. Ainsworth had achieved popularity, as a novelist, before Charles Dickens had been heard of in the world of letters; for "Rookwood" I believe, appeared in 1834; whereas the first of "Sketches by Boz" did not appear in the *Morning Chronicle* until 1836. I suppose that William Harrison Ainsworth was about the most indefatigable worker in the field of historic fiction that our age has seen. G. P. R. James (who, on the appearance of his first romance, "Richelieu," was also complimented by the good-natured author of "Waverley") put forth a hundred volumes in some thirty years. But most of G. P. R. James's works were historical essays and biographies, such as his "Life of Edward the Black Prince" and "Life and Times of Louis XIV." Harrison Ainsworth, on the other hand, beyond writing some picturesque "touch-and-go" ballads, produced nothing, it would seem, but novels.

I am old enough to remember William Harrison Ainsworth as a very handsome man; almost as handsome, indeed, as Count d'Orsay. It was an Irish gentleman I believe who, at a conversation at Gore House, was showing the beautiful hostess engaged in conversation with the handsome d'Orsay, the handsome Ainsworth, the handsome Frank Sheridan, and the handsome "Tom" D'Amboise, compared her steely eyes on the Tay Bridge, surrounded by the Three Graces; only there were Four of them!

The object of Mr. Oscar Wilde's visit to the United States—he sailed for New York a fortnight ago—is, I am told, to lecture on the progress of Art in England during the past few years. Had I seen Mr. O. Wilde just before his departure, I would have referred to him that Horace Greeley used to say to every youthful aspirant, "Go West, young man, go West." In the Eastern and Middle States Mr. Wilde will find, I suspect, some society but not much public acceptance. The New York press is desperately cynical and satirical, and the good people of Boston so soothsaying themselves with culture (pronounced "soothsaying") that there is a greater likelihood of their fearing Mr. Wilde how to serenade a sunflower; how to carry a jerked feather (a peacock's, of course, "swallow in the bonnet," as Leigh Hunt put it, in the "Story of Rimini"); how to lunch on a lily and dine on an "Eolide Digamma," than of their caring to be instructed in such matters by the accomplished *Coryphaeus* of British Estheticism. But in the Far West, where folks are more unsophisticated, Mr. Oscar Wilde should do well.

Not at all a pretty but, on the contrary, a very ugly quarrel as it stands is that between Messrs. Hare and Kondal, managers of the St. James's Theatre, and Mr. Pinero, actor and dramatic author, on the one hand; and between Mr. Thomas Hardy, novelist, and Mr. Comyns Carr, art critic and novelist, on the other. Messrs. H. and K. bring out a very well-written play called "The Squire," by Mr. P. Gushier, Tusher, and Crusher. The theatrical critics notice a very strong similarity between Mr. P. S. Squire and Mr. T. H. 's well-known and delightful novel "Far from the Madding Crowd." Then Mr. C. comes forward in the press to state that some time since he submitted a dramatic version of Mr. H.'s novel to Mr. K., who, personally, approved of it very much; but that when he read Mr. H.'s novel when he settled the scenario of the "Squire," and that he evolved the plot of the piece entirely "out of his own head." This Mr. T. H. seems to doubt very gravely, and Mr. C. more gravely still; and they are all "at it," figuratively speaking, with hammer and tongs, brickbats and bludgeons, in the daily papers; passing from the "reproachful" to the "quip modest," thence to the "replay churlish" and its disagreeable et ceteras: the last of which is not a weapon that should be last in a newspaper controversy quite as curious between Mr. Hardy's novel and Mr. Pinero's drama was an accidental coincidence, and nothing more. There is a coincidence between the "Canterbury Pilgrims" painted by Stothard, and the drawing of the same sub-

ject made by William Blake, *pictor ignotus*. There was something more than an accidental coincidence between the plot of Mr. Tom Taylor's *Mary Warner* and Mr. William Gilbert's "Tales for the Pharisées." But perhaps the strangest literary coincidence which I can call to mind is that between Alexandre Dumas the Elder's "Dame au Collier de Velours" and Washington Irving's "Tale of the German Student," in the "Tales of a German Traveller." In all probability, Dumas *père* had never read a line of Irving; yet it is just possible that both the brilliant French *romancier* and the illustrious American had read Hoffmann's "Contes Nocturnes."

I came across, a very odd coincidence of a philological kind this very week. For a long time I had been hunting up the conflicting derivations and obscure history of the word "bullion." I defer what I have to say about the word until the appearance of Professor W. W. Skeat's completed *Larger Etymological Dictionary*, which will be published early in February. The parts which have already been issued I have not yet seen; but it may be assumed that the learned professor has set us all right as regards the derivation and meaning of "bullion," including the late John Milton, who has "bullion" in the sense of an adjective, and seems to think that it means the scum of molten metal:—

A second multitude.

With wondrous art found out the massy ore, Sovering each kind, and sounding the bullion.

A poetic license, evidently, which led a Miltonian commentator to derive bullion from the Latin "bullo" to "boil."

But now for the odd coincidence. I find in the "Nouveau Dictionnaire Universel" (20 vols., Paris, 1810) that the name of the Superintendent of Finances who, A.D. 1640, first caused the coin known as the Louis d'Or to be coined in France, was Claude de *Bullion*. This is manifestly a coincidence: since Professor Skeat tells me privately that the word bullion occurs in the ninth year of Edward III.—G. A. S. in the *Illustrated London News*.

M. GAMBIETTA'S POSITION.—The *Morning Post* thinks that "M. Gambetta is to be highly applauded for the patriotism and good sense which lead him to choose merit and ability without regard to political factions. But the very impartiality of his selections are his decisive condemnation in the eyes of the Republique zélateurs. While the Conservative classes are doubtful about M. Gambetta's sudden Conservatism, there need be no doubt at all about the ferocity with which large sections of his former supporters regard the change in the favourite's attitude. It is declared that M. Gambetta is about to coin the Republic into a Caesar. A witty pen has summed up the situation as 'not dissimilar from the attempt of M. Olivier in 1870. M. Olivier tried to establish a Liberal Empire. M. Gambetta is founding an Imperial Republic. One failed. Will the other succeed? It is worthy of serious notice that the man in Parliament who, after M. Gambetta himself, is the most influential leader of the Republicans, namely, M. Henri Brisson, the actual President of the Chamber, is working actively against the new policy of the Republican chief."

ANATOMY OF PANIC.—The phrase "the anatomy of melancholy" amply justifies "the anatomy of panic." The mental state designated panic is, psychologically, a paralysing perception of peril. The power of self-control is suspended. The judgment cannot inhibit impulsive or emotional acts. The process of reason—in its higher manifestations—

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LONDON, JANUARY 8-9, 1882.

EGYPT AND THE ANGLO-FRENCH NOTE.

A despatch from Cairo states that the British and French Consuls-General received by telegraph on the previous night from their Governments a Collective Note, explaining in unmistakable terms the resolution of the two Powers to maintain the *status quo* in Egypt. England and France, such is the tenor of the despatch, having placed the Khedive on his throne, are determined to maintain his authority against any attempts to create disorder. No time has been lost in communicating to the Khedive the purport of the Note. This important piece of news substantially confirms the recent statements of our Paris correspondent, to the effect that measures had been taken by the combined Governments for upholding their resolve to allow no interference with the existing state of things in Egypt. Since the English and French Governments have decided to interpose in certain contingencies, it would be idle to imagine that the mode and conditions of such interposition have not been agreed upon. In this matter details are everything, and it would be futile to resolve to intervene without first ascertaining what form of intervention would be agreeable to both countries. Whatever the precise methods of the occupation, it is tolerably certain that they are already sketched out, and are not left to be selected until the moment a crisis arises. From what quarters such a crisis might arrive is manifest enough. Great Britain and France are resolved not to tolerate disturbance from within or without. On the one hand, the ambition of Arabi Bey and his party, be it honourable or otherwise in its objects, cannot be allowed to assert itself through the medium of military insubordination: the rule of the army must not be substituted for the rule of the Khedive in Egypt. On the other hand, any attempt by Turkey, whether acting on its own inspiration or upon encouragement from other Powers, to make capital out of Egyptian dissension by landing Turkish troops and re-asserting the control surrendered to Mohamed Ali and his successors by repeated firmans, will be in like manner repressed. It is one thing that Turkey should act in Egypt as the mandatory of England and France. The intervention of Turkey in any other shape and under other influences might have very serious results. From any point of view, it is true, the situation is sufficiently serious. We have nothing to add to the views we have recently expressed upon the subject of an Anglo-French intervention in Egypt. The tenor of Sunday's joint note, however, leaves little doubt that England has, though very reluctantly, decided to join France in armed intervention, if this should be absolutely necessary in order to preserve the *status quo*. Now that agreement on this point is established, it is useless to dispute with whom the responsibility of initiation lies. It only remains for both nations to stand by their word, and to do nothing hastily without due deliberation. The intimations contained in Sunday's note must be read by the light of Lord Granville's recent despatch. Lord Granville dwelt upon the aversion entertained by the British Government for any extension of British dominion over Egypt. He admitted that the only event which could lead us to abandon our quiescent attitude would be the occurrence in Egypt of a state of anarchy. The British Government now, it is true, goes somewhat further and acknowledges Turkish encroachment as another possible cause of intervention. But this addition is a concession to Egyptian liberty, and will not discredit the broad text of British policy in Egypt. That policy remains what it has consistently been, the preservation of Egypt as an open highway, not for us alone, but for all nations. We happen to be the chief travellers along it, but it is far from our wish to monopolise this highway. It must not, however, fall under a possible hostile control; and England must always, therefore, be mainly concerned in seeing that it remains neutral ground. We have no wish to occupy Egypt, and still less to do at the expense of governing it. But it is of vital importance to us that the isthmus should not be closed either by foreign occupation to which we ourselves were no party, or by a military *émeute*. Our reluctance to enter upon a joint Anglo-French intervention could not resist such a challenge. The English and French Governments have now, for good or for evil, put the question beyond a doubt. The proper corrective to all exaggerated suspicions of the intentions of the two Powers in the matter is to bear in mind that the armed intervention hinted at in the Note is only destined to meet emergencies which were certainly not imminent before the presentation of the Note, and are still less likely to arise since it has been presented. It was highly desirable that the intention, once formed, should be communicated, and it at the Khedive's Ministers should be allowed the opportunity, which they have taken, of giving it the widest publicity. The very knowledge of the determination of England and France is the surest safeguard against the disturbance of the existing equilibrium. But the point which ought to reassure all parties is that no intervention will take place save in the

last resort. To that the concert of England and France is pledged. We can only intervene to baffle force by force. If Arabi Bey and his party take this well to heart, they will recognize that they have nothing to fear from the joint manifesto.—Times.

THE CRISIS IN GERMANY.

Not only Prussia, but the German Empire, suddenly finds itself in presence of a grave Constitutional crisis. The Imperial Rescript, countersigned by Prince Bismarck, and addressed to the Prussian Ministry, is certainly calculated to chafe the ardour of those political theorists who imagine that the absolute and uncontrolled authority of a Representative Parliament is the beginning and end of Government. The German Emperor seizes the occasion afforded him by the recent proceedings in the Imperial Parliament, to remind the nation over which he rules that such an idea has never been accepted by the Prussian Crown nor embodied in the Prussian Constitution. During the recent General Elections, which turned out less favourable to the Government than the Government had anticipated, various officials exerted themselves with frank and conspicuous vigour to promote the return of candidates friendly to the policy of the Executive. Loud remonstrances have been raised in the Reichstag over these incidents, and the Imperial Rescript may be regarded as a rejoinder to these complaints. "I am far from wishing," says the Emperor, "to restrict the freedom of elections; but in the case of those functionaries who are entrusted with the execution of my official acts, and can, therefore, in virtue of the Discipline Law, be removed from their posts, the duty which, in their oaths of office, they swore to perform extends to supporting the policy of my Government, even at elections. The faithful discharge of this duty I shall acknowledge with thanks; and I shall expect all officials, keeping in view their oath of allegiance, to hold aloof, even at elections, from all agitation against my Government." The purport of these sentences is unmistakable. Many Englishmen will doubtless see in them the violent assertion of the most extravagant principles of Royal Prerogative. But if, discarding traditional prejudices, we endeavour dispassionately to discover what it is exactly for which the German Emperor contends, we shall perhaps find his declaration not quite so unreasonable as it at first sight appears. Only the other day Mr. Bright affirmed that all the freedom he wishes for is such as is compatible with the freedom of others. The German Emperor asks for much the same. He demands for the Crown, which is an integral part of the Constitution, and has distinct rights of its own, that freedom to intervene in the elections which is enjoyed by everybody else. The National Liberals, the Ultramontane are free to say, "These are our candidates." Well and good. Then the Government holds itself to be equally free to say, "These are my candidates." The Prussian Government and the German Government are essentially bureaucratic; and the number of officials receiving their appointments direct from the King is something enormous. The King naturally objects to allow the people he nominates to agitate against the policy he is labouring to promote; and though he does not go so far as to say that he shall expect all officials to work in the interest of the Government actively and assiduously, he allows it to be seen that a distinction will be made between those who conduct themselves in this manner and those who take refuge in neutrality. The principles here laid down and thus applied cannot be properly estimated unless we begin by recognising a broad and fundamental distinction between the position of the Crown, as it exists in England, and the position of the Crown in Prussia and in Germany. We have grown so accustomed to the formula, "The Monarch reigns, but does not govern," that many people regard it not only as the representation of a fact, but as an embodiment of right. Nothing could be more erroneous. It so happens that the course of our history has resulted, for good or ill, in placing the Sovereign in that position; but it does not follow in the least that such a position is in harmony with reason, or the interests of the country. It is a political experiment, like another. In Germany a different experiment has hitherto been tried, and though German Liberals are strenuously labouring to assimilate their Constitution in essentials to ours, the Emperor and the English Government are not in reality chosen by the sovereign, but are indicated to her directly or indirectly, by what it is the custom to call public opinion, but what, to speak more correctly, in reality is the wish of the majority of the moment, in Germany the Emperor chooses his Ministers without troubling himself to inquire whether they represent a majority or a minority of the suffrages of the community. "I do not serve you," said Prince Bismarck the other day to the Reichstag; "I serve the King." This is what the Imperial Rescript published on Saturday means, when it says, "The official acts of the King . . . remain the official acts of the King in whose resolve they have their origin, and who, in them, gives Constitutional expression to his will. It is therefore not permissible, and can only tend to obscure the Constitutional rights of the King, to represent their exercise as proceeding from the responsible Ministers, and not from the King himself. The Constitution of Prussia is the expression of the Monarchical tradition of this country, whose development rests on the living relations of its Kings to the people." People may like or dislike these assertions, according to their temperament and to their political ideals; but it is unquestionable that they embody an actual fact, and that the Emperor, in revising and restating his Constitution, is acting in the spirit of the King and the two Chambers." The Decree will certainly soon be made the object of a Parliamentary question.

undetermine and to alter the Constitution, and they have, no doubt, a perfect right to do so. At the same time, the Sovereign has an equal right to defend the Constitution against them, and this is what is attempted in the Imperial Rescript.—Standard.

The *Daily News* observes:—The news of the Royal and Imperial *coup d'état* at Berlin has come as a surprise on Europe. We have on some previous occasions compared Bismarckism to Bonapartism, and have ventured to foreshadow the same end to both. Happily the fate of the German Chancellor does not involve the fate of an Empire or a monarchy, but only of a system of State-craft. The dynasty of the Hohenzollers preceded by many generations the advent of the man of blood and iron, and it will probably long survive him. The latest act of Prince Bismarck suggests another parallelism drawn from French history of an earlier date than that of the Second Empire. The Rescript of January 4, 1882, which appeared in the *Reichs-Anzeiger* on Saturday evening, bears a close analogy to the Ordinances of 25th July, 1830. We do not wish to push the parallelism too far. The effects will probably not be as fast and as overwhelming in Berlin now as they were in Paris more than half a century ago. In their main result, and personal accidents apart, they may be the same in Germany as in France, and more permanent, though longer in coming about. Prince Bismarck is not likely to incur the fate of Prince Polignac, nor is the Emperor-King in danger of expelling his Rescript as Charles X. expiated his Ordinances. But it seems likely enough, in the one case as in the other, that in the long run and after a period of conflict the effect of the assertion of the principle of personal sovereignty will be to supersede it by the establishment of a more truly Constitutional and Parliamentary monarchy. This transition, which was suddenly effected in France by a change of persons and of dynasties, will probably be more slowly and securely brought about in Prussia by a change of system. It is possible, though the *Vossische Zeitung* disputes it, that the theory of the Prussian Constitution is correctly stated in the Imperial Rescript countersigned by Prince Bismarck. It is probable, again, that the Royal Ordinances were inconsistent with the Fourteenth Article of the Charter of 1848. But the question is only technically one of legal interpretation. The principles implied in the Ordinances of July, 1830, and those distinctly avowed in the Rescript of January, 1882, are alike inconsistent with Parliamentary government as it is practised in every really free country.

GERMAN OPINION ON THE EMPEROR'S RESCRIPT.

The Vienna correspondent of the *Standard* telegraphed on Sunday night:—Since the time of the Parliamentary conflict some twenty years ago so deep and universal a sensation has never been created as by the Imperial Rescript published yesterday at the head of the official *Staatsanzeiger*. Your readers will easily comprehend that the surprise is greatest among those who believed the Prussian Constitution entirely similar to the English. The Imperial enunciation is clear proof of the correctness of the view taken in your reader, which has been much anticipated here, that the German Emperor and Prussian King is not simply a reigning but also a ruling Sovereign. The publication, moreover, confirms my communications, which have been frequently and vehemently attacked by the Liberals here, and in which I state that the Emperor considers the acts of the Government as personal ones, and claims the right for himself and his successors personally to lead the policy of the State.

Article 43 of the Prussian Constitution, which is cited in the Imperial Rescript, makes the person of the King inviolable. Article 44 says that the King's Ministers are responsible for all Governmental acts of whatever nature, and that in order to be valid those acts require the counter-signature of a Minister, who thereby assumes the responsibility for them. The closing sentence of the Declaration expressly states the Emperor's complete agreement with Prince Puttkammer's explanations in the Imperial Parliament, which it will be remembered excited the greatest sensation in the ranks of the Opposition members, who believed that Herr von Puttkammer was only uttering his private opinions, whereas the Emperor now fully and explicitly adopts and sanctions the Minister's statements.

The gravity of the situation created by the Emperor's immediate interference and direct interposition in political affairs is patent to every one, and the seriousness of the crisis will become still clearer after the declarations and discussions that will certainly take place upon the subject in the German Parliament and Prussian Diet. It will then be seen that the hint thrown out in the *Political Correspondent* of Vienna as to the result of the conflict did not refer to an early dissolution of the German Parliament, but to the differences between the Imperial and Liberal views on the rights of the Crown. The Conservative press reproduces the declaration either without comment, or in some organ with appreciative remarks. The Liberal journals, on the other hand, dwell on the fact that the Promulgation is countersigned by Prince Bismarck, who thus becomes responsible for it. The Rescript is generally interpreted, not so much as a verdict on the past, as a hint for the future. This becomes the more comprehensible when we consider that next autumn the term of the present Prussian Legislature expires, that the German Parliament will probably be dissolved, and that new elections will then have to take place for both Parliaments. The Liberal papers are unanimous that the Deputies will come to guard the Constitution, respecting the duties of the electors and the rights of the representatives, being Government officials in active service, will immediately resign their seats or else their offices. The fact that the issue of such a Declaration is possible has made the deepest impression on the entire population. No one cares to discuss the subject, for all feel the profoundest regret that the Emperor William, after so long and glorious a career, in which he has so often shown himself one with his people, should now consider himself under the necessity of making such an assertion of his Imperial rights.

The impression produced by the Imperial declaration continues to deepen. It is the single topic of conversation in all classes and ranks of society. The warmest discussion is about the passage respecting the duties of officials in elections. It is asked whether the Rescript will not necessitate serious changes in the law affecting officials and their rights. The Radicals say that neither the declaration of the rights of the Crown nor of the Constitution is quoted, according to which the legislative power is exercised jointly by the King and the two Chambers." The Decree will certainly soon be made the object of a Parliamentary question.

(FROM THE "STANDARD.")

The Countess of Rosebery gave birth on Sunday to a son and heir at Lansdowne House, Berkely-square.

The body of Viscount Heseltine, who died at Madeira on the 21st ult., was landed at Southampton on Saturday from the schooner *Yacht Ellen*.

Mr. and Mrs. Richardson Saunders have arrived at Claridge's Hotel from Pimlico Hall, Northampton.

A marriage, says the Post, is arranged between Mr. F. E. G. Astley, Scots Guards, eldest son of Sir John Astley, Bart., and Lady Gertrude Pelham, only daughter of the Countess of Yarborough, and sister of the present Earl.

(FROM THE "STANDARD.")

The Secretary of State for the Colonies, after fully considering the arguments brought forward by the Government of the Straits Settlement, has, we understand, decided to reduce the amount of liability on the part of the Colony towards defraying the expenses of the late campaign in Perak, by a sum of £20,000.

The Berlin correspondent of the *Daily News* telegraphed on Sunday night:—I think I may say that the expectation that few political events have occurred in Europe during the last ten years which are likely to excite such surprise as yesterday's publication of the Royal Message. This event, which immediately precedes the reassembling of the German Parliament, will have the most important influence upon the German Constitution. Of late, frequent meetings have occurred between the Emperor and Prince Bismarck respecting internal affairs, and this last message proves that the long-threatened conflict between the Chancellor and Parliament has begun at last. Prince Bismarck, whose dislike of Parliamentary government is historical, now shows with what weapons he intends to fight the Opposition. To what will lead, the future alone can tell. Present circumstances hardly permit me to give an epitome of public opinion but the following extracts from the Press may probably be interesting to E-lish readers:—

The *Deutsche Zeitung* writes:—The news of the Royal and Imperial *coup d'état* at Berlin has come as a surprise on Europe. We have on some previous occasions compared Bismarckism to Bonapartism, and have ventured to foreshadow the same end to both. Happily the fate of the German Chancellor does not involve the fate of an Empire or a monarchy, but only of a system of State-craft. The dynasty of the Hohenzollers preceded by many generations the advent of the man of blood and iron, and it will probably long survive him. The latest act of Prince Bismarck suggests another parallelism drawn from French history of an earlier date than that of the Second Empire. The Rescript of January 4, 1882, which appeared in the *Reichs-Anzeiger* on Saturday evening, bears a close analogy to the Ordinances of 25th July, 1830. We do not wish to push the parallelism too far. The effects will probably be as fast and as overwhelming in Berlin now as they were in Paris more than half a century ago. In their main result, and personal accidents apart, they may be the same in Germany as in France, and more permanent, though longer in coming about. Prince Bismarck is not likely to incur the fate of Prince Polignac, nor is the Emperor-King in danger of expelling his Rescript as Charles X. expiated his Ordinances. But it seems likely enough, in the one case as in the other, that in the long run and after a period of conflict the effect of the assertion of the principle of personal sovereignty will be to supersede it by the establishment of a more truly Constitutional and Parliamentary monarchy. This transition, which was suddenly effected in France by a change of persons and of dynasties, will probably be more slowly and securely brought about in Prussia by a change of system. It is possible, though the *Vossische Zeitung* disputes it, that the theory of the Prussian Constitution is correctly stated in the Imperial Rescript countersigned by Prince Bismarck. It is probable, again, that the Royal Ordinances were inconsistent with the Fourteenth Article of the Charter of 1848. But the question is only technically one of legal interpretation. The principles implied in the Ordinances of July, 1830, and those distinctly avowed in the Rescript of January, 1882, are alike inconsistent with Parliamentary government as it is practised in every really free country.

(FROM THE "DAILY NEWS.")

The *Standard* writes:—The Berlin correspondent of the *Daily News* telegraphed on Sunday night:—

The new year has brought its usual amount of festivities, pretty gifts, and still prettier cards. The latter increase in number every year, and many of them are works of art. Indeed I am told that they are a lucrative source of employment to ladies who design those pretty emblems, and receive large sums for anything really original from Messrs. Marcus Ward, Delarue, and other publishers.

Private theatricals have been the rage, and continue to be so during the holidays. This is thought to be a legitimate way of utilising the surplus spirits of youth and parent, and the vacation is not altogether so complete a waste of time if the memory is improved and a taste for the drama cultivated.

In London children's parties and juvenile balls abound. Lady Dudley provided a magnificent tree for her young friends at Dudley House, and every one of the little guests came away enriched with lovely toys and trinkets; even the smallest were not forgotten, and guita-percha dolls and squeaking pigs were provided for babies in arms. This entertainment lasted from four till eight, and was one of the prettiest sights imaginable.

On all sides I hear of nothing but country dances. Hampshire is looking forward to no less than five dances in the space of a fortnight. That given by the lady patronesses of Basingstoke will probably be the best; while the hospital ball, which is given every year in the Guildhall, Winchester, is always good.

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Great Britain.

LONDON, JANUARY 10-11, 1882.

KING WILLIAM'S MANIFESTO.

The manifesto of Saturday is King William's personal act. As the King's Prime Minister, Prince Bismarck had no choice but to countersign it. Yet, for affixing his signature, he is liable to be impeached by the Prussian Parliament. If a Minister do not agree with a decision of the King as incorporated in an act of Government, or do not choose to accept responsibility for it before the nation, he is free to resign, that he may not countersign the Royal decree or join in enforcing an equivoque law. If a subordinate official so differ from the policy of the Government, which is the King's policy, that he feels compelled by his conscience to assail it by his influence and vote, his duty equally is to retire from a post he cannot justly occupy. While he retains it, he is bound, his King tells him, to co-operate with the Government, of which he implicitly forms a part, because he is bound to co-operate with the King, whose bread he eats. Prince Bismarck's and his master's theory of the Royal prerogative does not differ essentially from the British. A British Sovereign, theoretically, is as unfettered in the exercise of his Royal powers as a Prussian Sovereign is asserted to be. If the Queen thought a Minister engaged in doubtful enterprises, or a legislative proposal immoral, it would be, in theory, her duty to dismiss the Minister and veto the law. Her irresponsibility to the nation and the responsibility of her Ministers do not, in theory, emancipate her from the personal obligation to consult her individual conscience, or from responsibility also to her. In practice a clear distinction is acknowledged between the Monarch's opinions as a Monarch and personally. The King of Prussia, being theoretically free in the exercise of the prerogative left to him, arranges the right to exercise his prerogative freely. Acts of Government, being in form his, he declares are his in fact. Incontrovertible evidence that they are, he informs his subjects, is to be seen in his signature appended to them. Practically, his interpretation of the Prussian Constitution, if carried out, lays a burden both upon him and upon his Ministers which neither will be able to bear. An autocrat has difficulty in reconciling himself to the modifications of policy enjoined by circumstances, rare and infrequent as they may be. No constitutional ruler's conscience or self-respect could stand the incessant strain of continual shifting of position required to preserve his Government and the nation in amicable relations. According to the recent manifesto, should a Liberal Administration, as sooner or later it certainly will, succeed that led by Prince Bismarck, the Emperor William must be imagined to have turned Liberal, or to have had his individual will put in chains. Personal dignity exists from the chief of a constitutional State that he should devise a modus vivendi for his double capacity of man and Sovereign. For statesmen in a country possessed of representative institutions it is an absolute condition of usefulness that both their Sovereign and themselves should interpret the responsibility they owe to the nation as signifying that their service is owed to the nation as well as to the Sovereign. The Emperor King appears to hold that his Ministers are bound to take the whip from, and are not bound to take counsel with, his people. Prince Bismarck is tasting at this moment the sweets of such a doctrine. The Stuart Kings of England entertained the same notion as the Emperor William of the absence of distinction between the Monarch's personal and official qualities. They acted not very dissimilarly in their attempt to treat their Ministers as exclusively their own servants, and not servants of the nation. When an inferior functionary opposed the King's Government, he was speedily taught that the King personally controlled his Government's policy. If there is little fear that the present enunciation by the Emperor and his Chancellor of the worn-out Stuart hypothesis will be followed by its seventeenth century consequences, it is that neither are the Prussian and German Parliaments led by Pym and Hampden, nor is the House of Hohenzollern devoid of political instinct like the House of Stuart. Prince Bismarck may himself discover inconveniences in a theory of prerogative which, though elaborated for the direct benefit of the Prussian Crown, would apply equally to all the other varieties and shades of German Royalty. At some near date, when he or a successor has repented of the endeavours to keep up obsolete traditions of the German nation's incompetence to decide on the management of national business, the obstinate separation of minor rulers may prove a worse obstruction to German unity than Parliamentary claims to be self-governed. The motive in any case for setting up such a pretension at the present moment seems singularly inadequate. The Chancellor and his august master have combined to fulminate an assertion of divine right against the Prussian people because the rank and file of German civilians are suspected of having swelled with their votes the gigantic majority against the Chancellor's experiments in Socialism and Protectionism. Prussian officials have generally been supposed to be more than sufficiently docile to their Government and despotic to their fellow-subjects. Prince Bismarck makes too

candid a confession of the irretrievable unpopularity of his recent policy when he offers, in Saturday's rescript, to the well-drilled Prussian bureaucracy the alternative of siding with the Government against the nation or being cashiered. He ought to perceive that it is time to come to terms with his countrymen, who cannot help admiring and revering him, when he has himself reduced to terrorise his own clerks for their votes.—Times.

MR. GLADSTONE'S LEGAL APPOINTMENTS.

By elevating Sir John Holker, a staunch Conservative, to the vacant position of Lord Justice of Appeal, the Government has set an excellent precedent, which will probably be followed only in rare instances. The established rule in English political life is that Judgeships are part of the loaves and fishes which are distributed, as they fall in, to distinguished and capable lawyers belonging to the party in power; and our present Ministry has not hitherto deviated from this ancient custom with regard to judicial prizes. Now, however, that the lamented decease of Lord Justice Lush has placed another coveted legal post at his disposal, Mr. Gladstone has shown great good sense and much generosity in bestowing it upon one so well able in every way to add lustre to his high dignity as Sir John Holker, the present Conservative member for Preston. Some other names had been mentioned for the post, and as a matter of course the appointment was first of all offered to the law officers of the Crown for the time being. These are Sir Henry James, the Liberal Attorney-General, and Sir Farquhar Herschell, Solicitor-General, neither of whom appears willing to exchange the freedom and excitement of Parliamentary conflict for the safe repose of the Judicial Bench. Since the present Ministry came into office, there has been a constant succession of deaths or resignations of distinguished Judges. A perfect plethora of legal appointments has consequently fallen into Mr. Gladstone's hands, and the Bench has been in a state of change, which, happening coincidently with the new arrangements necessitated by the amended Judicature Acts, has given a slightly kaleidoscopic character to our Courts of Justice. A solicitor or a barrister who had gone abroad three years ago, and who returned to London now, would hardly find one of our Courts either of Equity or Common Law in which extensive changes of judicial "personnel" had not taken place. Among those whom death has removed from us can be mentioned the late Lord Chief Justice of England, Sir Alexander Cockburn, whose office is now filled by Lord Coleridge; Lord Justice Thesiger, cut off in comparative youth; Chief Baron Kelly, and Lord Justices James and Lush. Many retirements have also occurred, such as those of Vice-Chancellor Malins, of Lord Justice Bramwell, and others. This havoc among the occupants of the Bench is something unprecedented, occurring as it did within a very short space of time; honoured names, noted individuals have gone down in the rush, and we are in presence of a new Bench, with a few survivors of old men. That the reputation of the collective "judiciary" has not suffered must be acknowledged to be a solid tribute to the Judges selected, and also indicates the inexhaustible material for judicial appointments existing in our chief forensic champions, the men who go down to the law courts and draw truth up from its well-tempered day of the sittings of the High Court. No doubt it requires peculiar qualities to make a good Appeal Court Judge. The tribunal is a somewhat anomalous one, inasmuch as it is only intermediate, and its decisions can be reviewed again by the House of Lords. At the time of the passing of the Judicature Acts it was intended that the Appeal Court should be the final tribunal for the whole realm; but custom conquered, and the House of Lords retained its ancient privilege of being the highest Court of Justice, beyond which there lies no appeal, except to the Crown itself. It has been found in practice, however, that the Court of Appeal, despite its intermediate character, has a great deal of work to do, and performs a most useful function. For instance, litigants dissatisfied with the ruling of the Judge, or the finding of a jury, take their cases to this Court for review, but it hardly ever happens that they go beyond, and hammer at the august portals of the House of Lords. Great respect is naturally and properly felt for a tribunal which numbers among its members such intellects as those of Sir George Jessel, Lords Justices Brett, Cotton, and Baggallay, and occasionally a couple of present or past Lord Chancellors. It is to this dignified body that Sir John Holker is now transferred, without the preliminary step of a puisne Judgeship, and his appointment happily shows that political passions do not in this country run so deplorably high as to blind statesmen to the legitimate claims of able men among their political adversaries.—Daily Telegraph.

THE CONSTITUTIONAL CRISIS IN GERMANY.

The Berlin correspondent of the Standard telegraphed on Tuesday night:—

The Imperial Decree still remains the chief, almost the only, topic of public and private discussion. The Exchange, which is almost always favourably affected by Conservative measures, has been unable either yesterday or to-day to recover from the excitement and depression produced by the proclamation. Private criticisms naturally differ, often very widely, from the utterances of the Press. Under pressure of the rigorous Press Law the newspapers do not dare to reproduce or depict either the general opinion at home or remarks from abroad. Enough, however, remains to show that, according to the views of the Berlin, the German, and the Foreign Press, Prussia and all Germany are bound to pass through a very grave crisis. Not even the Conservative organ expresses satisfaction with the Imperial declaration. The *Post*, true to its own judgment upon Herr von Puttkamer's statements with regard to officials, restricts itself to finding the origin of the conflict in the fact that Herr Bismarck once made his entrance into the Ministry dependent on the entrance of some partisans. Only the extreme Conservative journals fully approve the proclamation.

The really Liberal Press of all the shades of opinion comments rather freely on the declaration, claiming a right to do so because a responsible Minister, Prince Bismarck, countersigned it. The *Cologne Gazette* says that "nobody attempts to touch or to doubt the Monarchical Constitution of the country. Why, then, do things always look as though such doubts were really entertained?"

The *Weser Zeitung* wonders that the Pro-

clamation, being an Imperial utterance, is countersigned, since it is thereby laid open to public discussion. It believes that the Crown has had bad advice if it has been urged to use means for securing election other than such as express the conviction of the population. The Crown by doing this will be running into the danger of self-deception as to the people's real views. The left wing of the Progressive—that is, the partisans of Herr Eugen Richter—ask for a law of incompatibility, whereas Herr Handel's followers demand a law of Ministerial responsibility which has been already promised by the Constitution, but never yet carried out.

The *Weser Zeitung* states the differences between the Prussian and the German Constitutions. The Governmental acts of the Prussian King may be admissible, but not so the acts of the German Emperor or Prussian King, as regards the Empire. How it asks, will Prince Bismarck, who countersigned the Declaration, answer for not having called the King's attention to such an anomaly, not dissuaded him from acting as he has done? The Imperial Chancellor ought absolutely to have refused his counter signature, even though as Prussian Premier he might have believed it possible to undertake the responsibility; but the Prussian Premier could not have allowed the Empire to be controlled by Prussia. Nobody will gainsay that this want of perception is highly regrettable.

THE AMENITIES OF COOMASSIE.

It appears that the dreadful report of a massacre of two hundred young girls at Coomassie was too true. They were collected by raiding amongst the tribes bordering on Ashanti, for the object of mixing their blood with the mortar used in building a new palace for the King. After one has surrounded one's natural horror, curious reflections arise:—

Is there any part of the world, saving the Chinese Empire, where a kindred superstition has not made its victims? and the Chinese Empire is excepted rather because we know so little of its antiquity than because we can credit that an universal practice was not followed there. There are few buildings in Europe dating from the earlier Middle Ages which have not a legend of the tribes attached to them, a legend prevalent among all races and conditions, from the slaves to the Bridge, most certainly records a general instinct of humanity in its younger and darker stage. This class of legend is usually divided into two branches, of which each has examples innumerable. We have the simpler form in cases exactly similar to this Ashanti reproduction—the burial of a young girl alive, or of her slaughtered body in the foundations of cathedral, or church, or bridge. The other form is more poetic. Driven to despair by sinkings of the earth, or crumbling of the upper structure, the master-mason vows—sometimes to the Devil, sometimes to a power unnamed—that he will sacrifice his dearest treasure if this evil influence be stopped. It is invariably a woman or a girl—his wife, his betrothed, or his daughter. The masons bind her up in a coil of steel, and then drop the spell. Of the scores of myths and ballads founded on this tragedy the most beautiful, perhaps, is that of the famous monastery of Argis, in Wallachia. If the two variations of the story be considered thoughtfully, it is evident that they are based, in effect, on the same idea. To ensure stability in the great work, evil fortune must be propitiated by a sacrifice of transcendent value. The dearest and most beautiful thing on earth is woman. When the theme is general, so to speak; when the story has no individual hero, girls are made victims without identification; when the story is personal, the wife or child of the hero is introduced. Most emphatically, such practices cannot be allowed in this age of the world, if we have power to stop them. But we may think less bitterly of negro superstition when we remember that our own forefathers used the same horrid rites.—Evening Standard.

SIR W. ARMSTRONG ON NATIONAL DEFENCE.

Sir W. G. Armstrong, C.B., F.R.S., delivered, on Tuesday evening, his inaugural address as President of the Institute of Civil Engineers. After touching on its various phases the relation between gun and armour, he said it had placed our naval authorities under extreme difficulty in deciding upon questions of ships and armament. Not only did we see that armour was unavailing against torpedo attack and ramming, but we were justified in concluding that every attempt to increase resistance to projectiles would be quickly followed by a corresponding increase in the power of artillery. Our early ironclads, like the *Warrior*, were plated all over with armour 4 1/2 inches thick—a thickness which could now be pierced with field-pieces. To resist the most powerful guns now afloat, armour of at least two feet in thickness was required; and in order to reconcile the constantly increasing thickness with the weight which the ship could carry if it had any power to resist the armoured surface to ever-narrowing limits, leaving a large portion of the ship without protection. In those magnificent and tremendous vessels which the Italians were now building the armour would be withdrawn from every part except the battery, where guns of 100 tons would be placed, and where the armour would be confined to a narrow belt of great thickness. Everything of importance that projectiles could destroy would be kept below water level, and so far as artillery fire was concerned, the ships would be secured against sinking by means of an underwater deck and ample division into compartments. Armour, therefore, seemed gradually contracting to the vanishing point; but until it actually disappeared, it was probable that the country might take some comfort in the reflection that every stage of progress narrowed the field for further development. There was already no substantial room for improvement in the accuracy of guns; and as regards power, we were nearly approaching the limit at which severity of recoil and extravagance of gun would prohibit further advance. We might go no higher, larger guns being impossible, though it doubtless would be the policy of so doing; but more increase of size did not revolutionise system. There seemed, therefore, to be more hope of permanency now than at any former period; but whether this were so or not, we could not, without danger, remain passive. What, then, should our Government do in regard to the great work of rearming the Fleet? He took it for granted that all new ships would be armed with the best guns that could be made, and that the more important of the older vessels would speedily receive the same advantage; but beyond this, so long as experience of novelties was deficient, it was a case for cautious procedure. In the meantime, no expense should be spared in judicious experiments, seeing that the expense of experiments was trifling in comparison with that of mistakes. Above all, the Government should pursue such a course as would bring into full play the abundant engineering resources of this highly mechanical country, and increasing the efficiency of our National Defences.

MR. O'DONOVAN'S ESCAPE FROM MERV.

In another letter to the *Daily News* on "Last Days at Merv," Mr. O'Donovan relates the difficulties he had to contend with before being permitted to leave Merv. The belief that the British Government had, by entering

into a compromise with Russia, induced the latter Powers to let Merv alone, and that Mr. O'Donovan was intimately acquainted with the secrets of the English Government, had exalted him to the "bad emir" at which he stood as one of the triumvirate of Merv. He says, "Even as I write I have lying beside me large official documents, written by the Saruk Turkoman tribes inhabiting the Turkoman frontier, bearing the seals of eight chiefs, and requesting my intercession with a view of having restored to them thirteen asses carried off by my immediate friends. Again there are applications from outlying tribes and individuals asking me to give them certificates to the effect that they were under British protection, such certificates being supposed to exempt them both from fortifications and taxes. In the middle of the popular enthusiasm in their behalf, the intercessions reached him, that Candahar was to be evacuated, and he "at once perceived that, however admirable such a measure might be in itself, to him it could hardly fail to be exceedingly inconvenient, if not disastrous." He accordingly wrote to the British Minister at Teheran, Mr. Ronald F. Thompson, requesting him to write to summon Mr. O'Donovan immediately to Teheran or Meshed as on some pressing business. Summoned of this kind were sent, but the Turkomans were still unwilling to let their important guest depart, and expressed great curiosity to know what the pressing business was which so imperatively required his presence at Teheran. At length Mr. O'Donovan wrote to Teheran asking the British Minister to write direct to the Merv chiefs stating that the correspondent's presence was immediately and imperatively required.

After some weeks the longed-for missive from Teheran, an imposing-looking document as one could well see, came. It was couched in the strongest language, and asked why Mr. O'Donovan was further detained at Merv after repeated messages had been sent, the council requiring my immediate presence at Meshed. The receipt of this epistle left no further excuse for his detention. "Still there were dissonant voices in the off-summoned councils. Some very honest chiefs believed they saw in my withdrawal an abandonment of their cause, and acutely enough wanted to know what the very pressing matter could be which required my presence at Meshed. Others, of a more ignoble type, observed that the present I had made to my colleagues and to the minor chiefs were not in proportion to the dignity of my station. I may here remark that I had already distributed over fifty pounds sterling among them, besides articles of jewellery, field-glasses, revolvers, etc. I saw that as matters stood there was not a moment to be lost in correcting the breach of trust I had made. I had still fifty pounds on hand, and enough more at Meshed. I signified to the Khans that I wished to make them some parting gifts, and general jubilation ensued. It was delicately hinted that the money would be much more acceptable than its value in dresses of honour or other articles."—Meanwhile a characteristic episode occurred:—

"After the occupation of Askabad, General Scobell, with a considerable cavalry force, pushed on eastward as far as Kaka, which town, of some five thousand inhabitants, lies a long day's ride to the north-east of Kelat-Nadri. To propitiate the Alewi Turkomans of the district numerous presents had been made, among them a number of Geneva watches with gorgeously decorated dial-plates. The recipients did not appreciate these unknown apparatus, which they took for astrolabes or other astronomical instruments. I took the earliest opportunity of exchanging them for their value in coin. They knew I was at Meshed, and despatched a body of horsemen carrying the unknown apparatus as a *peshkash*, or present to me. . . . Immediately on hearing that objects of value were in my possession, my neighbour Baba Khan, chief of the Tukisham or Eastern Division, sent over his cavalry commander or *serdar* to say that though he had often heard of watches, he had never yet been gratified by the sight of one of these wonderful instruments. I committed one of the watches to the care of the *serdar*, a mighty agreeable and very unconscious rascal; and by him it was conveyed to the Khan. In an hour the *serdar* returned, saying how pleased the Khan was with the watch; so much so, indeed, that with my permission he intended to keep it as a souvenir of his presence at Merv."

After some days the messengers to Meshed returned bearing with them the money for which Mr. O'Donovan had given them an order, and the presents were distributed. At the same period news had come of the occupation of the north bank of the Atterek along its entire length by the Russian troops, and the further demand for the Keshef Rood as the eastern portion of the new frontier, which would give over to Russia districts which the Merv people claim as their territory. Mr. O'Donovan represented to the council at Merv that this frontier question was to be discussed by an international Convention, at which he was the only European who, knowing the actual ground in dispute, could be of any service at the Convention. It was in view of this that he was summoned to Meshed. This argument was convincing, and it was decided that he should be allowed to depart.

COURT AND FASHIONABLE NEWS.

OSBORNE, TUESDAY.

The Queen and Princess Beatrice drove yesterday afternoon, attended by Lady Waterhouse and the Dowager Marchioness of Birket.

And her Majesty and the Princess walked and drove this morning, attended by the Dowager Marchioness of Birket.

The Prince of Wales, who is on a visit to the Earl of Stamford and Warrington at Bradgate Park, Leicestershire, had a splendid day's sport on Tuesday. The display of game was indeed remarkable.

The Queen dined at the residence of the Countess of Stamford in the early part of the last century. The Prince was also shown Queen's *Leda* oak, under which Her Majesty had luncheon when celebrating her fiftieth birthday at Bradgate; and the terrace was pointed out where Lady Jane Grey and Lord Guildford Dudley spent their time previous to their marriage.

The guns were as follows:—The Prince of Wales, Lord Stamford, Colonel Kenyon Slaney, Lord Orme, Sir F. Johnstone Bart., the Earl of Lathom, Mr. H. Trelawney, Colonel Lloyd, Lord Colville, Mr. De Lisle, Lord Hardwicke, and Lord Newport. The rabbit shooting in the park afforded good sport, and after some pleasant shooting at Blagrove Haywood luncheon was served in a large marquee. After luncheon the adjoining spinneys were shot over, being abundant.

The Empress Eugenie arrived at Portsmouth from Chislehurst on Tuesday afternoon, and at the dockyard was received by General Prince Edward of Saxe-Weimar and Admiral Ryder, commander-in-chief.

The Princess Beatrice had crossed the Solent in the Royal yacht *Alberta*, in which the Empress proceeded in company with the Princess to Osborne on a short visit to her Majesty.

The Marquis of Lorne has joined the committee.

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NOTICE.

A four-page Supplement is published with this day's number of the MESSENGER, and will be delivered gratis with each copy of the paper. It contains our American news and an interesting variety of literary extracts.

Great Britain.

LONDON, JANUARY 11-12, 1882.

THE PORTE AND ITS CREDITORS.

Mr. Bourke's financial mission to Constantinople excited, during the four months it lasted, an abnormal amount of interest, due partly to the vast number of creditors of the insolvent State, and partly to the notoriety of the debtor. Never before had such a default been witnessed, one involving so much loss and suffering to individuals and so swiftly followed by political results of momentous importance; for, if the repudiation of 1875 did not bring on the Eastern Question in the aggravated form it assumed, it added another ingredient to the elements of bitterness which left the Ottoman Empire with scarcely a friend in face of the enemies that clammed up its dismemberment. The Turkish bondholders were dispersed all over Europe, and abounded in the great capitals; and the first feeling of resentment at what they deemed to be a gratuitous robbery of their rightful dues was so keen as to blind them to the serious consequences to their own prospects likely to arise from the further impoverishment of their debtor. A wasteful war and territorial mutilation followed, seriously diminishing the bankrupt estate and transferring part of the property to preferential claimants, who, while they took much from the available assets, added a good deal to the already enormous debt. It was only after the work of dismemberment had been completed, and when it was seen that the Empire had obtained an interval of comparative security and rest, that the creditors betook themselves of looking into the condition of what survived of the magnificent domain on which they held so many mortgages, and of obtaining some return for what was due to them. Then came Mr. Bourke's delegation to the task which he had just completed, and an explanatory narrative of which he has now issued. To the creditors, of course, the points of interest are three in number: the nature and value of the property on which they have claims, the possible composition to be had, and the security, if any, for the payment of even the smallest composition. What the estate now is Mr. Bourke tells them by the aid of figures which need no embellishment to become of historical value. Before the war the area of territory in European Turkey was 140,000 square miles; it is now 58,000 miles, \$2,000 miles having been surrendered to Bulgaria, Roumelia, Austria, Servia, Roumania, Montenegro, and Greece, besides Cyprus and 5,700 square miles in Armenia. The population of the same territory has dwindled from about eleven millions in 1875 to six millions and a half in 1881; and the total revenues of the Empire, which in 1875 amounted to £17,350,000, are estimated at not more than £12,500,000 now; the sum permanently lost to the Empire being thus, in round numbers, \$4,750,000. Bearing in mind that the service of all the loans contracted by the Turkey that was—the Turkey of Sultans Abdul Medjid and Abdul Aziz—would, on the terms of the original contracts, require £13,000,000 sterling, it results that, if the whole revenue of the Ottoman Empire were devoted to that purpose and no other, it would fall short of the sum requisite to be conveyed, while officially taking no notice whatever of the Anglo-French action. It now seems probable that they propose to adopt the latter course. To-day's reports are all to the effect that the German Powers will totally ignore the Collective Note; while they contain an equally clear intimation on the part of those Powers that their silence must be understood to signify indifference, and not acquiescence. If the English and French Governments like to amuse themselves by what one Vienna newspaper calls a "declaration of war against the windmills," well and good. There is no reason why Germany and Austria should make any observations on the pursuit of so harmless a pastime. For themselves, they repudiate and, for ought we know, they may truthfully repudiate—any desire to disturb the *status quo* of which England and France have claimed to be the sole possessors; and since they see no danger of its disturbance from any other quarter, they do not think it necessary to notice a claim which may never have to be practically asserted. But at the same time it is to be perfectly understood by France and England that if any serious complications arise in Egypt, the German Powers will insist, an Anglo-French Note to the contrary notwithstanding, in taking part with their two western neighbours in the settlement of what will then have become an international question. So much as to the effect which the Joint Note is producing in Europe. As to its effect at Cairo, where results more marked and immediate might have been expected, we have had as yet but little information of a definite and satisfactory kind. We are told, indeed, this morning that the Note has "fallen like a thunder-clap" on the National party, and that it has "caused great excitement and even consternation amongst the military party and Notables"; but it does not appear on the facts that it has either awed these parties into a more submissive attitude, or that, so far at least, it has done much to strengthen the Khedive. On the contrary, Tewfik Pacha seems overcome with apprehension of the consequences which the interference of the two Powers may bring upon himself. He has forbidden the native newspapers to comment upon the Note, and he has apparently hastened to correct the report that its despatch was provoked by an appeal for assistance alleged to have been made by him to Sir E. Malet. "He has never held to the British Consul-General any language which could possibly be construed as indicating that he desired, or that there existed a shadow of necessity for, foreign interference of any sort." And while this is the hesitating mood of the Khedive, that of the Chamber—at any rate if we may judge by their attitude—appears to be the very opposite. They have not yet withdrawn what are called the "pretensions" which are being re-

sisted by the European Controllers; and cannot feel sure that, in spite of the implied menace of the Joint Note, they will not persist in them. Should they maintain their point, it will manifestly place the English Government in a rather awkward position. It may be quite true—and we ourselves are firmly persuaded of it—that the best thing for Egypt would be for the Chamber to withdraw their demands, and allow the Anglo-French régime to subsist unchecked by any national control whatever for at least several years to come. But it is difficult to dispute the right of a regularly convoked and properly constituted assembly to insist on a voice in the administration of their country; and it is equally difficult to deny the scandal which would attend the action of a Liberal Government, with the antecedents of the present Ministry, who should undertake to stifle such a demand by the threat of military coercion.—*St. James's Gazette.*

GUY'S HOSPITAL.

The report of an inquest held on Wednesday gives a sad exposure of certain defects in the management of a great and historic London hospital which must startle and shock even those who are familiar with recent revelations of a somewhat similar character. The Coroner's jury in this particular instance have returned a verdict, accompanied, indeed, by some qualifying remark, of accidental death. It is only necessary to analyse the facts of the case to see that this verdict in its present form is very far from satisfactory, although it may be hoped that the publicity which it gives to a bad system will lead to its being reformed without delay. The death of Mrs. Bartlett undoubtedly took place, at the jury say, through "misadventure," but it was misadventure of the sort which is known to the Scotch law as culpable homicide. She was admitted as a patient into Guy's Hospital on the 19th of December. Her illness was typhoid fever, and in the treatment of it the administration of quinine powders played a prominent part—their object being to lower her temperature. These powders were wrapped in white paper; there was a ticket attached to them specifying the nature of the contents and the dose to be given; their proper place was a bracket above Mrs. Bartlett's bed. On Saturday night the Clinical assistant went into the Miriam Ward in the hospital, where Jessie Bartlett was lying, to take her temperature. He found that she was almost *in articulo mortis*, and as a matter of fact she expired in about twenty minutes—that is to say shortly after midnight on the morning of Sunday last. This gentleman did not ask the nurse, Fanny Keyworth, any questions at the time when he saw Mrs. Bartlett dying. He contented himself by simply sending for the House Physician, Mr. Starling, who came and administered the usual remedies, unhappily to no purpose. Sister Victoria Elizabeth Jones, who had charge of the ward, subsequently came to Mr. Denby, the Clinical Assistant, and, in his own words, "told him something which explained the cause of death." What that cause was he learned more precisely at the post-mortem examination. It was a dose of morphia, which had been given to the patient instead of the prescribed quinine. Mr. Starling's evidence was to the effect that the dose was to much the same effect. He had seen Mrs. Bartlett some forty minutes before Mr. Denby's summons reached him, and some twenty minutes after the fatal dose had been administered. "There was," he said, "nothing peculiar about her." When he attended her later on he found that she was in a condition of collapse. He at first thought that perforation of the bowels had occurred, but he soon learned, as Mr. Denby learned, that morphia had been given in "mistake for quinine, and that the patient had, in point of fact, been poisoned." The number of Mrs. Bartlett's bed was 26; the number of the patient's bed for whom the morphia was intended was 23, and the nurse Keyworth had nothing whatever to do with the latter. Still she had contrived to give the morphia meant for No. 23 to Mrs. Bartlett, and she did so because she took it out of a basket on the table into which the morphia powders had been put by the Ward Sister, and from which the nurse had three weeks before taken quinine powders. The question raised is—How did the drug intended for the patient in bed No. 23 come to be in this basket, and not, as is the rule, on the bracket above her bed? The only conceivable excuse for the Sister is that she had put the morphia powders in the basket on the table in order that there should be no chance of their getting mixed up with less dangerous drugs on the bracket. But then the nurse Keyworth did not know this; and although evidence was adduced to show that the poisonous powder was specially marked with a warning card, it is not clear that the nurse saw the monitor label when she administered the drug. One thing is certain: had the ordinary rule of hospitals been observed, and each patient's drug kept strictly on the bracket above her bed, the morphia prescribed for the sufferer in No. 23 could not possibly have been given as quinine to Mrs. Bartlett in No. 26. The origin of this lamentable event, and the conditions under which it occurred, are thus sufficiently clear; they are not, however, on that account the less unpardonable. We have no desire to intensify the painful regrets which both Sister Jones and Nurse Keyworth must feel. They meant no wrong; but, as Hoad has told us, Evil is wrought by want of thought as well as by want of heart. The nurse and her superior are both sufficiently punished by the melancholy incident with which their names are connected, and they are not likely to forget the lesson which it enforces. We blame, indeed, no individuals on account of this unhappy business; we blame rather the system, under which such misadventures are possible, and which it seems so difficult in Guy's Hospital to reform. On this head no censure can be too severe. It is clear that in the administration of Guy's Hospital there is still, in spite of recent efforts to improve matters, nothing like fixity or continuity.—*Standard.*

THE COMING STRUGGLE.

The government of the country can no longer be carried on under the existing rules of the House of Commons. Such is the unanimous conviction of the Ministers responsible for the government of the country, and they are prepared to act on that conviction. When the session opens,

and as soon as the debate on the Address and the Bradlaugh difficulty are over, they will introduce proposals, comprehensive and drastic, for the reform of procedure, and these will be disposed of before any other business is taken in hand, even though the discussion should last till May Day. These proposals, embodying the leading features of the improvements in machinery suggested by Sir Erskine May, will also of necessity contain provisions for restoring in a direct and formal way the power to close debates which until the other day was invariably exercised in an informal fashion by the House of Commons. The only difference will be that, instead of debates being cut short by brutal clamour, they will be terminated by a vote of the majority, either on the initiative of the Speaker or by forty members rising in their places, probably by the former. Should the House refuse to sanction reforms declared to be indispensable for the despatch of business by the responsible advisers of the Crown, it will be equivalent to a vote of want of confidence or a refusal to vote supplies. Ministers could not sit down tamely under such a defeat. They would be compelled either to resign or to appeal to the country. There is no mystery about these things. We are revealing no secrets. We are only stating an obvious fact. The decision of the Ministry to stake their existence upon the acceptance of their proposals for the reform of procedure is the best demonstration that they can give that the changes they suggest are desired by them as absolutely indispensable. Ministers represent all shades of opinion in the party which has most to lose from any arbitrary curtailment of the liberty or even the licence of debate. They have all been in a minority, and all expect, sooner or later, to be in a minority again. Their traditions and their associations naturally lead them to regard with extreme suspicion any new limitation on the rights of minorities or the privileges of private members. Every consideration of private or party interest would lead them to evade or postpone the necessity for straining the allegiance of their followers by making so unpopular a proposal. Nevertheless they are driven to make, and, having made it, to stand or fall by, their proposal. The change is required not to secure the passage of any bill or of any set of bills. It is to save parliamentary government from perishing of paralysis. The *Liberal* veto slew free institutions in Poland; and, unless the despotism of a minority is suppressed by the authority of a majority, it will have not less fatal consequences in England. This is not a time, when the very existence of representative government is being rudely assailed on the Continent, to allow representative government in its original seal to be reduced to a byword and a reproach by the licence of disorderly loquacity, even although it masquerades under the guise of freedom of discussion and the rights of minorities.

—Pall Mall Gazette.

when such studies would have been thought effeminate in this country. English people have always been unjust in this and some other particulars, and have before now been surprised into taking slight account of a chamois or ibex hunter because he was not immediately acquainted with our highly elaborate manner of killing a fox. England has outgrown many of such prejudices, and it is now held by me means discreditable in a young man to play the organ or pianoforte, or even the violin. Oftentimes by the odd manners of this Prince Consort had no motive of proselytism. They were undertaken, and pursued in a far more modest spirit. As he himself explained, he practised music as did other things, not in a vain spirit of Crichtonism, but in order that he might be able to understand and appreciate the work of others. In music, as in painting and other arts, he desired the faculty of comprehension and the power of judgment, without respect to competition in any field with the acknowledged masters of art.

Notwithstanding this modesty of intention,

ship opened the ball in a country dance. Everyone was pleased to see both the Duke of Rutland and Lord Wiltshire, on horseback, at the Granton Park meet of the Belvoir, last Wednesday. The Nestor of the Shires is now in excellent health, and intends to remain at Melton throughout the season.

A very successful fancy dress ball was given at Southsea, on Friday, but the spectacle would have been considerably more brilliant if *bond-fide* fancy dress had been a condition of admission, to the exclusion of uniforms, which, of course, largely predominated. Prince and Princess Edward of Saxe-Weimar brought a party from Government House. The Prince was a copy of Austria, Lady Caroline Lennox came as a lady of the clan Gordon in *Grande toilette*, and Mr. Albert Seymour as La Mascotte. The Marine Artillery band officiated, and gave great satisfaction, and during the earlier part of the night the ballroom was too crowded for comfortable dancing.

Mr. Bernal Osborne would have been more successful in life had he been less witty. He had a considerable fund of common sense, was well read, and in Parliament he was an excellent debater. But his jokes were good, and were quoted, therefore the world would not believe that he could do anything else. Socially, he was a most agreeable companion; but he was not at his best when at a dinner-party where he knew that he was expected to entertain. As the Duke of Saxe-Weimar did of the Great Frederick, Osborne did of Louis XIV's *verso*. These were unpretentious compositions done in a workmanlike manner. Simple and straightforward in dead as in life, the Prince set before him in the great majority of the works before us a goal which a fairly accomplished musician should be able to attain. He attempted neither a symphony nor an opera, and essayed none of the complex harmonies which can only be successfully dealt with by a master hand. His object was apparently to write such melodies as would fall within the range of an ordinary voice and fair power of vocalisation. With the exception of a few concert pieces, the numbers are such as might be written by a boy-farmer accomplished in music for the performance and enjoyment of his own family; that is, songs eminently vocal and devoid of difficult intervals, and with a very free accompaniment. Of this class is the pretty set of Reineck's words entitled "Sonlangs Klang," and the more plaintive "Dem Fernen." Another pleasing air is "Vergissmeinnicht" and somewhat more ambitious is "Orangenweile," a sort of elaborate scene. The Chorals too have merit of their own, and a "Reiterleid" with chorus is distinctly characteristic and full of life and vigour. In length and aim the most important composition is a choral one of Italian words, and includes parts for soprano, alto, tenor, and bass, with full chorus. The introduction shows all the妙 of a master, and the andante for soprano, "Versa in Dolce," have all the merit which belongs to the work of a practised hand, without perhaps the advantage of originality, but yet endowed with a certain solidity and honesty of execution. A similar remark will apply to the majority of the forty works for the voice and piano-forte, including one melody for the violin. There is thoroughness of purpose evident throughout, a desire to at least put out the strength that was in the writer, always intent on self-improvement with the object previously referred to.

There can be little doubt of the interest

which such a work will excite in the musical world. What is especially noteworthy is a certain dramatic fitness which characterises music not otherwise remarkable except for the ease with which it can be sung and played. This dramatic fibre is distinctly felt in the *Reiterleid* and the *Deum*, which with the "Te Deum" form a complete service; and in the "Reiterleid," and in the chorales. This is the more surprising in that the type of the Prince Consort's well-balanced mind was naturally rather judicial than dramatic; yet there is the true cavalry dash in the "Reiterleid," that rattle of the sabre and jingle of the spur without which cavalry ditties sink to infantry level. Another reflection is suggested by the number of compositions. The Prince was an extremely busy man; and it may be wondered how he found time to produce so much musical work. But the busiest of men can find time for the pursuit they prefer. The Prince Consort, generally wise and temperate in counsel, was not endowed with conspicuous oratorical or literary faculty; but it would be said that his artistic powers found fit expression in music. This is no uncommon case. It is rare that several forms of invention are found in the same individual. Many-sided men like Leonardo da Vinci and Michael Angelo are very few, and the calm judicial faculty is seldom allied with creative powers of a high order. By the publication of the Prince Consort's musical compositions the public will be enabled to form a judgment of his artistic faculty.—*Daily News.*

—Pall Mall Gazette.

THE WINE DUTIES.

A Scotch Chamber of Commerce has proposed that one of the subjects for consideration at the annual meetings of the Association of Chambers of Commerce, which are to be held in London at the end of next month, should be the expediency of memorialising her Majesty's Government to take the earliest opportunity of negotiating a commercial treaty with the Government of Spain:—

The announcement made by a Gambettist journal in Paris that the negotiations for a commercial treaty between France and England are definitely broken off give little time to this suggestion. It opens up the subject of the readjustment of the wine duties, and suggests the practicability of fixing a new scale of duties which will remedy the existing inequalities. At the present moment wines with less than 26 degrees of proof spirit pay to the revenue a duty of one shilling a gallon, but as respects wines of more than 26 degrees, the duty leaps with a single bound up to half-a-crown a gallon. The result has proved most injurious to the Spanish wine trade; and the Spaniards have, on their side, retaliated by levying heavy duties upon English manufactured goods. The Chambers of Commerce are opportune in the moment they have chosen for calling attention to this subject. Mr. Gladstone, it is understood, is now considering the various fiscal questions which are likely to have a place in his Budget, and the suggestion of a practical character from the representatives of the commercialistic side may perhaps be made more usefully during the next few weeks than at any other period of the year. It is a little strange that although upwards of thirty different topics are to be submitted to the forthcoming meetings of the Association, the subject of the wine duties in relation to our colonies is not included in the list. Yet, as wine-growing countries like Australia and South Africa are as deeply interested as Spain in the readjustment of these duties, it is manifestly desirable that we should consider their point of view equally with that of the Spanish Government. They argue that as the existing system is, its effects, prohibitory so far as Australian and Cape wines are concerned, we are guilty of violating the principles of Free Trade, as well as of acting unfairly to the colonists. Mr. Gladstone, as Chancellor of the Exchequer, may be trusted to give a full and impartial hearing to those who entertain these views, desire to improve our commercial relations both with Spain and with the British colonies. It will be seen from a telegram from our Roman Correspondent that the Italian Government is not insensible to the opportunity of making favourable arrangements with respect to Italian wines which is offered by the breakdown of the treaty negotiations with France.—*Daily News.*

—Pall Mall Gazette.

POLITICAL AND SOCIAL ITEMS.

(FROM THE "MORNING POST.")

We are authorised to state that no date has as yet been actually fixed for Prince Leopold's marriage, but it will certainly not take place till after Easter.

Sir John Holker, Q. C., M.P., who has just been appointed a Lord Justice of Appeal in the place of the late Lord Justice Lush, will be sworn in before the Lord Chancellor on Saturday next, and it is expected that the new Judge will take his seat in the Court of Appeal on Lincoln's Inn on Monday next.

General Sir Frederick Roberts will, it is understood, retain the command of the Madras army, and there is now a good probability of his joining the Guards Staff.

An open competition for the posts of the higher class is about to be held. One of the vacancies offered will be a clerkship in the Colonial office, with a commanding salary of £250 per annum. For particulars applications should be made to the secretary to the Civil Service Commissioners, Cannon-row, Westminster.

(FROM THE "DAILY NEWS.")

The Queen has been pleased to approve of the admission of Sir T. Erskine Perry as a member of her Majesty's Most Honourable Privy Council. Sir T. E. Perry has recently retired, after a long and distinguished public service, from the Indian Councils.

The subject of the telegraphs will be submitted to the annual meetings of the Association of Chambers of Commerce, which, as we have already stated, will commence on February 28. It will be proposed that a deputation be appointed to wait on the Postmaster-General, in order to impress upon him the desirability of the Government entering into negotiations with foreign countries for the purpose of cheapening and facilitating telegraphic communication. It will also be proposed to present him with a memorial urging the desirability of laying the telegraphic wires in the country underground.

The captain's good service pension of £150 a year, vacant by the promotion to flag rank on the 31st of December last of Captain William H. Edye, has been awarded to Captain St. George Caulfield D'Arcy-Irvine.

—Pall Mall Gazette.

LONDON GOSSIP.

(FROM "TRUTH.")

The health of the Duchess of Cambridge has been rather worse than usual lately, and in consequence of the intense nervousness of her Royal Highness, the drums of the Guards' band have not been played during the last fortnight, when the guard at St. James's Palace was being relieved.

After being discontinued for several years from various causes, Lord and Lady Wilton have resumed their annual birthday ball at Egerton Lodge, which this year celebrated the "Earl's" 82nd anniversary. The house party participated in the sports, and his lord-

ship opened the ball in a country dance.

Everyone was pleased to see both the Duke of Rutland and Lord Wiltshire, on horseback, at the Granton Park meet of the Belvoir, last Wednesday. The Nestor of the Shires is now in excellent health, and intends to remain at Melton throughout the season.

A very successful fancy dress ball was given at Southsea, on Friday, but the spectacle would have been considerably more brilliant if *bond-fide* fancy dress had been a condition of admission, to the exclusion of uniforms, which, of course, largely predominated. Prince and Princess Edward of Saxe-Weimar brought a party from Government House. The Prince was a copy of Austria, Lady Caroline Lennox came as a lady of the clan Gordon in *Grande toilette*, and Mr. Albert Seymour as La Mascotte. The Marine Artillery band officiated, and gave great satisfaction, and during the earlier part of the night the ballroom was too crowded for comfortable dancing.

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THE COMING ELECTIONS.

Two very interesting elections are shortly to take place. By the elevation to the Bench of Sir John Holker a vacancy is created at Preston, and two candidates are already in the field for the seat vacated by Lord Helmley, in the North Riding of Yorkshire. In the latter the representation has often been divided, but Preston has for many years been represented by two Conservatives, and is a decidedly safe seat for the party. If any doubt ever existed about the matter, it would be dispelled now that Mr. Cecil Raikes has been chosen to contest the borough in the interest of the Opposition. It is, indeed, well that the Conservative party are able to offer the services of a politician not only of his proved capacity, but whose abilities and official experience render him at this particular juncture capable of giving the State peculiarly valuable service in Parliament. It would be hasty, perhaps, to conclude that his opponents will rejoice enthusiastically over his return. But it is not difficult to believe that they will admit that, as they must be beaten, they would prefer to be defeated by Mr. Raikes, rather than by any other Conservative. For this feeling a good reason can be given. The coming Session is likely to be known in Parliamentary history as the *Cloture* Session. One of the main questions of controversy to be devoted will be the Reform of Parliamentary Procedure. Upon that question Mr. Raikes, from his experience as Chairman of Committees during the last Parliament, is in a position to speak as one possessing high authority. He was the first Chairman of Committees who had to deal with Obstruction as an almost irrepressible nuisance. In his manner of meeting the novel difficulties which hampered him in the discharge of his duties he is admitted on the whole, even by the Irish members, to have displayed not only firmness and courtesy, but a swift competence on emergency that more than once enabled him to save the House from grave perils on critical occasions. Not only by his conduct in the Chair, but by his published writings, Mr. Raikes has shown that he has a thorough practical knowledge of details in the management of Parliamentary business, which in the discussions on the Ministerial proposals will enable him to give the House not only sound advice but safe guidance. For this reason, if for no other, the country will be glad that he is to fill the place vacated by the well-merited promotion of Sir J. Holker. In view of the inevitable result of a contest in a borough of such pronounced Conservative opinions as Preston, it ought to be, in the circumstances, a serious question for the Liberals whether they will not be sacrificing the interests of the country to those of faction, if they put the ex-Chairman of Committees to the cost and trouble of a contest at all. It is a misfortune that at any time the House of Commons should be deprived of the services of men like Mr. Raikes—no matter what their Parliamentary connections may be. But as the question of coercion substituting for freedom of debate is to be dealt with next Session, the absence of such men from the deliberations of the House would amount to something more than a misfortune. Hence, apart altogether from the conspicuous loyalty with which Preston has always supported Conservative candidates, it may be taken for granted that Mr. Raikes will receive the undivided support of the members of his own Party, and we hope that it may also be his happy fortune to command the undisguised sympathy, or at least meet the softened hostility even of his political antagonists. But of the contest in the North Riding it would be hardly prudent to speak so confidently. The fight in this Constituency is likely to be unusually keen and severe. The Liberals are not content with dividing the representation of the Division; they have resolved to monopolise it; and it would be idle to ignore the fact that in Mr. Samuel Rowlandson, who carries the banner of the Farmers' Alliance, they possess a candidate whom it would be folly to despise. Mr. Rowlandson is well known to the farmers of the North Riding. He is a voluminous speaker at agricultural meetings, and a constant attendant at cattle shows, where he sometimes officiates as a judge. A gentleman who in this way keeps his name steadily for some years before the bucolic public, has always a certain hold upon the sympathies of rural electors—a hold which Party managers, if they be wise, will be very slow to disregard. Mr. Rowlandson is, moreover, by no means parsimonious in pledges. He is willing to vote for the abolition of the Law of Distress, for Representative County Boards, Equalisation of Town and County Franchise, something very like Tenant Right, and a Readjustment, in the farmer's interest, of the charges levied by Railway Companies for the carriage of Agricultural Produce. In a word, he, as literally as possible, puts forward as his political Confession of Faith the familiar programme of the Farmers' Alliance. Such assurances as he gives, we must remind the electors of the North Riding, cost little, and may mean less. The cheapest plan to adopt for finding favour in the eyes of men whose votes are being angled for is to promise to give them what they want, while concealing from them the practical difficulties that may hinder the immediate or even the ultimate realisation of their desires. But, looking at the two rival candidates in the North Riding, and keeping in view the proverbial shrewdness of the "Northern Farmer," it is hard to believe that specious pledges will decide the issue. Mr. Rowlandson, in fact, ought to find in Mr. Dawney an opponent who, apart from his political utterances, bears a name which is one to conjure with in the district. He is a member of an old county family, and he has on his side not only the influence which supported his predecessor, Viscount Helmley, but much more besides, which Lord Helmley could not command. As a daring and skilful sportsman, and one who has risked his life in distant lands in the service of the country, he appeals to every instinct characteristic of Yorkshiresmen. Then he will receive the support not only of the Conservative landowners, but also of a great number of the most influential of the resident gentry who have hitherto attached themselves to the opposite Party connection.—*Standard*.

MR. GLADSTONE ON THE LAND QUESTION.

Mr. Gladstone's rent audit was held at the Glynn Arms Hotel, Hawarden, on Tuesday afternoon. The Premier had arranged to be present, but in consequence of his detention in London, he requested that the usual dinner should be postponed until Thursday, when he intimated that he would attend and address the tenantry on agricultural affairs. The Premier, accompanied by Mr. W. H. Gladstone, entered the room half-past two, and was cordially received.

In responding to the toast of his health, Mr. Gladstone said:—"The desire of the present Administration is to propose a thoroughly efficient measure of local government which shall give to the inhabitants of the country an effective power of controlling the county expenditure with the same principles of freedom and of representative government which belongs to our central legislature, and these principles shall be carried into effect under the local government of rural districts just as much as it now is in the cities of the country. (Cheers.) There is another subject upon which you will no doubt wish to hear what I have to say. What is to be done for you with respect to assisting local taxation from Imperial sources? We are most desirous that you should have the first place in the matter of controlling local expenditure and authority over the sources of local taxes are raised; that you should have the means of controlling expenditure and that the means should be so arranged as to give no temptation to waste, but that you should have every inducement to economise the outlay of money. But it is a very important question, whether, and in what measure, in what degree, you may receive further assistance from the Imperial exchequer. You receive a great deal of assistance now, but, in my opinion, in a bad form. The police of the country, the gaols of the country—these expenditures are borne either entirely or in part, and some of the poor law charges are borne either entirely or in part, by the exchequer of the country; but they are borne in such a way as to be general not to contribute to economy in such a way as to induce a great deal, and I think probably too much, of central interference, or what is called centralisation, in the local government, and rather to draw us away from that old principle of English institutions which lies at the very root of them, viz., the principle that the local populations should have the management and control of local affairs. But, apart from that, the demand for assistance from the public exchequer might not be an unreasonable demand. It is based upon several considerations. One of them is that at the time when the present charges were fixed upon land, the real property—personal property—to find that the little Pandora's box of Tunbridge Wells were privately presented to one many years since, and from which so many evils and discontents have issued, has disintegrated with the dry rot, and that even Hope has fallen through. Yes; I am, at this time of writing, altogether hopeless of being able to persuade those disastrous personages, the writers of political leading articles in the newspapers, to use an obvious English equivalent for the French word 'Clôture.'

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"A charming Christmas gift comes to me from a friend, in the shape of a handsomely bound little book, being the two volumes of the celebrated Tauchnitz Collection of British Authors. What a cheerful kindly benefactor to English tourists abroad has been the Baron Bernard Christian von Tauchnitz. Since '41, I think, has the Tauchnitz series been in course of publication. "At that time there was no international copyright; but Herr Tauchnitz resolved to obtain the sanction of the authors, and pay them for permission to include their productions in his series." Nobly has the House of Tauchnitz abided by its upright resolve. Most of the people of the pen have tasted the Tauchnitz blood, in the shape of handsome cheques; and my brethren and sisters will, perhaps, agree with me when I say that when, in the fulness of time, the Herr Baron is gathered to his fathers there would be that which would sufficiently provide for the benefit of the tenant farmer through all time. For the benefit of the existing farmer I hope it will provide, but as to the benefit of the successor on the farm, the reduction of the rates will be a reduction which will be the exclusive benefit of the landlord; and the landlord's wife.

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I may venture to say, that although I have spoken of two great causes operating upon agricultural prosperity—namely, the state of the seasons, and the state of the general trade of the country, which determine whether you are to have rich customers or poor ones, and thereby determine what you are to receive as a great degree for your products—there is another which is more important than either of these, and that is the skill and capital of the farmer himself—the capital he possesses and the way in which he uses that capital. I for my part have always felt that one of the great difficulties of this subject is that the agriculturist is called upon to undertake, and he does undertake voluntarily, a task of very great difficulty. He has a wider and more varied knowledge to acquire. His profession, although it probably the most agreeable of all professions, yet is also, on account of the demand which it makes upon his knowledge and skill, the most difficult of all professions. After a brief reference to the introduction of machinery into agriculture and the advantages of raising poultry and vegetables on farms, the right hon. gentleman concluded as follows:—

"I quite admit that in my public capacity you have a right to expect that such exertions as I can make shall be used to do what the law can do towards improving your condition. But after the law has done all that it can possibly do, those two causes to which I first referred will be of greater consequence than anything that the law can do. The seasons that God may send us, and, secondly, the trade of the country, on which you depend for a good, brisk, and profitable market; your own skill, your own industry, your own efforts to find out modes of improving your operations, and modes of introducing new processes where they are effective—this is the main matter of all. I have only one word to say to you with respect to the economy of the outlay of money. But it is a very important question, whether, and in what measure, in what degree, you may receive further assistance from the Imperial exchequer. You receive a great deal of assistance now, but, in my opinion, in a bad form. The police of the country, the gaols of the country—these expenditures are borne either entirely or in part, by the exchequer of the country; but they are borne in such a way as to be general not to contribute to economy in such a way as to induce a great deal, and I think probably too much, of central interference, or what is called centralisation, in the local government, and rather to draw us away from that old principle of English institutions which lies at the very root of them, viz., the principle that the local populations should have the management and control of local affairs. But, apart from that, the demand for assistance from the public exchequer might not be an unreasonable demand. It is based upon several considerations. One of them is that at the time when the present charges were fixed upon land, the real property—personal property—to find that the little Pandora's box of Tunbridge Wells were privately presented to one many years since, and from which so many evils and discontents have issued, has disintegrated with the dry rot, and that even Hope has fallen through. Yes; I am, at this time of writing, altogether hopeless of being able to persuade those disastrous personages, the writers of political leading articles in the newspapers, to use an obvious English equivalent for the French word 'Clôture.'

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Thomas Carlyle is almost illegible in 1865; E. C. Grenville Murray is diplomatically clear in 1872; and W. M. Thackeray (1857)—in his cursive and oblique, not his horizontal Anglo-Greek character—would do honour to a copper-plate engraver of visiting cards.

Anna Riddle in 1873, quite overpowers, calligraphically, her illustrious sire.—G. A. S. in *The Illustrated London News*.

COURT AND FASHIONABLE NEWS.

OSBORNE, THURSDAY.

The Queen and Princess Beatrice drove out yesterday afternoon, attended by the Hon. Victoria Baillie; and her Majesty walked with the Princess this morning. The Hon. Lady Biddulph had the honour of dining with the Queen yesterday.

The Prince of Wales had an exceedingly good day's shooting on the estate of the Earl of Stamford and Warrington at Bragdale, Leicestershire, on Thursday. The morning was rather foggy, and consequently it was after ten o'clock when the Royal Highness, Lord Stamford, and the party left the hall. The attendance of spectators was enormous. Hundreds of conveyances of all kinds lined the roads, and several thousand people, many of whom had walked many miles, watched the shooting with the keenest interest. On the road from Leicestershire to Bradgate was one continuous stream of conveyances, and at four o'clock there could not have been less than between 5,000 and 10,000 people in the field adjoining the wood where the Royal party were shooting. The fog then became rather dense, but the spectators, the sportsmen, the shooting party, and the Royal Highness, all continued to shoot vigorously. The pheasants, owing to the shooting, were not to be had, but the pheasant was a very good bird, and the shooting was excellent.

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Great-Britain.

LONDON, JANUARY 15—16, 1882.

M. GAMBETTA AND THE CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES.

M. Gambetta desires to establish a logical symmetry by enacting the *scrutin de liste*, not as was formerly proposed, in the shape of an ordinary law, but as a fundamental article of the Constitution. The changes set forth as expedient in the method of election to the Senate, though inferior in immediate interest to the demand for the abolition of *scrutin d'arrondissement*, are not unimportant. The effect of the increase of the delegates from the Municipal Councils at Senatorial elections in proportion to the number of registered voters in the communes will result in the swamping of rural voters in four or five departments by the urban electors. The substitution for life Senators "co-opted" by the Senate itself of Senators chosen for nine years by the votes of the two Chambers will not, it may be hoped, exclude eminent men who for the moment have lost the favour of the masses. The restrictions on the powers of the Senate in the matter of money bills is, while the Republican majority holds together, an unnecessary precaution. The influence of these modifications, however, will be slight and gradual compared with that of the adoption of *scrutin de liste*. For this, M. Gambetta enters into no lengthened and apologetic arguments. He lays it down as indisputable, in firm if not imperious language, that the Legislature, "yielding to the political sentiment of the nation," are bound to settle that great question according to Republican tradition. It is the immediate insertion in the Constitution of the principle of *scrutin de liste* which is insisted upon. By and by, "towards the expiration of the Chamber's term of existence," a law can be passed giving effect to the new constitutional provision. It cannot be contended, therefore, that the Chamber is being asked to commit suicide before it has well entered upon its life and work. With respect, however, to the affirmation of the principle, M. Gambetta warns the Chamber that in voting against *scrutin de liste* they would reject the well-established doctrine and conviction of the Republican party repeatedly attested in Parliamentary struggles and recently supported at the elections by large majorities. *Scrutin de liste* is to be accepted as "the most logical and most vigorous expression of universal suffrage." All this is difficult to be disputed—not only from M. Gambetta's point of view, but from that taken up, in theory at least, by most of the Republican representatives in the present Chamber. The late Chamber voted for *scrutin de liste*. That was the principal issue before the country at the ensuing elections. Nevertheless, the Chamber was elected under the *scrutin d'arrondissement*, and, as everybody knows, a very different body was chosen under the rival system. Though unable to array themselves openly against *scrutin de liste*, the Deputies are, therefore, bitterly disappointed at having to submit to the immediate opening of the question. They are prepared to denounce the inconsistency of M. Gambetta, who in his speech at Neuembourg last September declared that it would be "supremely ridiculous" for any one engaged in practical politics to bring forward the subject at the opening of the first session of the new Legislature. M. Gambetta has probably found, as many another statesman has found when he has come to look at practical politics from a position of Ministerial responsibility, that he cannot keep to the letter of former pledges and protests. The inconsistency, in the present instance, is trivial; it is concerned with no matter of principle—for M. Gambetta asserted at Neuembourg as strongly as ever his adherence to *scrutin de liste*—but with a simple question of time. As to the expediency of the policy M. Gambetta has adopted there may be much difference of opinion, but he has to make his choice between two courses, each with its own difficulties and dangers. The reasons which have determined M. Gambetta to leave the ground he took up in his Neuembourg speech are tolerably clear. He has already discovered that the sullen and secret opposition of a Chamber elected under *scrutin d'arrondissement* to the impending change must be reckoned with, and he deems it wise to grapple with that spirit at once. If he should fail to carry the Legislature with him now, the constitutions, it is almost certain, would punish the defection of men who would be held to have broken their faith. M. Gambetta's retirement would be attributed to jealousy and intrigue; and the breaking-up of parties would discredit the Chamber, and would prevent the formation of any stable Government. Doubtless M. Gambetta calculates that the Deputies, whatever their chagrin, will think twice, and even thrice, before precipitating so grave a crisis. He has not demanded urgency; he has left ample time for reflection, and he has exhorted the Chamber to consider most seriously the "imperative nature" of the issues presented to it. Without in any degree changing our views as to the abstract merits of *scrutin de liste*, we trust that the stability of the political situation in France will not be jeopardised by a crisis for which there is no sufficient reason. The majority of the Republican party are pledged to *scrutin de liste*, and that M. Gambetta has called upon them to make good their words they can hardly draw back. If the question were settled

by the acceptance of the constitutional principle, the danger of intrigue, inspired by selfish fears, in the present Chamber would be much lessened. The whole of Europe is interested in the establishment of a strong and solid Government in France, and this country has, unfortunately, peculiar reasons for dreading sudden and disturbing changes.—*Times*.

THE SITUATION IN EGYPT.

The *Times* has received the following telegram, dated Sunday, from its correspondent at Alexandria:

"The Egyptian Parliament has become very grave. The new Parliament refuses to accept its right of voting the Budget. It also claims complete Ministerial responsibility and initiative in all laws. This programme clashes with the programme of the Khedive and Sherif Pacha, who respect the limits placed on the free action of Egypt by the International Convention. Sherif Pacha will resign if the Parliament persists in its demand, and the Minister of War, who is pledged to the National party, will succeed him. The existence of the Anglo-French Controllers would be endangered by such a change, even if it were to follow within the strictest limits of their powers. Unluckily, the Collective Note of England and France has overawed the National party, which doubts the feasibility of a joint intervention and thinks that any intervention will be prevented by the other European Powers. The policy of France and England is anxiously awaited; precipitate action might produce actual danger."

SOUTH AFRICA.

The Durban correspondent of the *Times* telegraphed on Saturday:

"A correspondent in Northern Zululand, under date December 29, sends me disquieting accounts of the state of things there. The general opinion in the country is that the people are fleeing on a volcano. This is movement, however, from the chief to the smallest capitals. There is no hand to restrain them and there is no visible British authority. The Resident is distressed. Dunn's Land is the only territory governed well. The other chiefs would fain follow Dunn's example, but are prevented by circumstances. Myza and his people are still troublesome and treacherous. Reports were again rife that the ex-King was on the road back. Thereof the chiefs could not raise 100 men from each thousand warriors in their districts. My informant suggests that an independent Commission should be appointed to inquire into the state of the country. A central administrator is also needed. The natives are quite ready to work in the country if they are encouraged to do so."

"Affairs still go on smoothly in the Transvaal. The popular disapproval of the new taxes will probably result in their modification. It is said that an American company has proposed to construct the Delagoa Bay Railway. It is stated here that no tender has yet been accepted for the Natal extension. The Native Commission sits daily under the presidency of the Chief Justice. The natives have been invited to give evidence. A posthumous letter from the late President Burgers, which has been published, attributes the annexation of the Transvaal to the desertion of the Boer leaders, to the popular apathy, and to private influences exercised by the Special Commissioner. He indignantly repudiates having accepted a pension as the price of his submission, and states that he bore the imputation in silence rather than injure the popular cause."

LATER.

"I have just heard from Dunn's Land, where trade, industry, and missionary interests are all steadily progressing; that Umlando wishes to come under Dunn. Another chief beyond St. Lucia Bay, a former tributary of Cetwayo, has voluntarily sent tribute to Dunn. The Zulus in Dunn's Land, having been told that the majority of the white men want Cetwayo back, express a corresponding desire, but the Europeans in the country believe that the return of the King would be fatal to the peaceful development of the country."

DEATH OF SIR RICHARD MALINS.
Sir Richard Malins expired on Sunday at his residence in Lowndes-square. The deceased ex-judge was born in 1805, and was therefore seventy-six years of age at the time of his death. It will be remembered that Sir Richard retired from his post as Vice-Chancellor in the course of last year, his reason for his retirement being his infirmity, due to falling health, to which he had sustained rather more than a year ago materially contributed. A short time before his own decease, the ex-Vice-Chancellor underwent the grief of losing his wife, and the shock of the bereavement, acting on a frame enfeebled by age, was one cause of the fatal termination of his short illness. Sir Richard Malins received his education at Cambridge, and was called to the Bar at the Inner Temple in 1830. He chose the Chancery side of legal business, and after a successful career became a Queen's Counsel and a Bencher of Lincoln's Inn in 1849, nineteen years after his first assumption of the barrister's wig and gown. Politically he was always a staunch Conservative, and he succeeded in entering Parliament on those principles, as representative of the small border of Wallingford in 1852. Re-elected in 1857, and a year afterwards, he held his seat at the general election which took place in July, 1855. The Conservative Government, however, appointed him to the elevated post of a Vice-Chancellor the very next year, on which occasion he received the honour of knighthood, and he continued occupant of that position until a year of his death. As an Equity Judge Sir Richard Malins was well known. His Court in Lincoln's Inn always had character of its own, and strong sympathy for what appeared to be the oppressed or the weaker side was always apparent in the Vice-Chancellor's remarks and judgments. No doubt was ever entertained of his intellectual abilities, notwithstanding the fact that many of his decisions were of little weight. The venerable Judge has left behind him pleasant memories of his general kindness of disposition, and his retirement from the Bench last year was the occasion of respectful tokens of regret from the members of his own profession, to whom the news of his death will come as the removal of one more legal landmark of the past.

The *Standard* says:—It is with great regret that we announce the death of Vice-Chancellor Sir Richard Malins—an event, however, for which his precarious condition during the past few days must have prepared his numerous friends. Though not a great lawyer in the technical sense of the word, he was perhaps one of the most representative Equity Judges that the Bench has produced. His rule was to make himself thoroughly master of the minutest details of the cases which came before him, and having by his keen judgment and profound knowledge arrived at what he believed to be a just opinion upon the facts, to make the law fit in with what appeared to him as right. The habit of thus exactly and conscientiously examining from the point of view of a private individual, all matters upon which he had to decide professionally, he had acquired in the early part of his career, when practising as an Equity draughtsman, and it was that "habit allied to

other sterling qualities which then procured for him an enormous and lucrative practice. Such a patriarchal view of his high office, however conducive to the dispensation of real justice, and satisfactory to the litigants who came into this Court, did not perhaps always tend to increase his judicial reputation, and his judgments were very often appealed against on points of law. Still, for ten years he enjoyed the cordial esteem of his colleagues in the respect of the Bar, and his admiration of the moral public spirit which regarded him as the champion of moral right, and common sense, against mere technicalities and precedents—in other words, as an Equity Magistrate in fact, as well as in name. On the fusion of the Equity with the Law Courts he was appointed one of the Judges of the Chancery Division of the High Court of Judicature, which position he held until increasing age and infirmities obliged him to resign it in March, 1880. Sir Richard Malins never took a very prominent part in politics, and his appointment to the Vice-Chancellor some eighteen months after he had left the House, seems to have better suited his taste and temperament.

The loss of his wife, to whom he was deeply attached, and who died only a short time ago, no doubt hastened the result of his last illness. Greater Judges there have been, who have left more brilliant professional reputations behind them. But few will be remembered with more respect and affection, for his unwavering integrity and comprehensive kindness of heart, than Sir Richard Malins. It is consolatory to think that he was not removed in the midst of his useful work, but after a long life's labours well and honestly done.

THE RELEASE OF INNOCENT MEN.

(FROM THE "STANDARD.")
We learn on good authority that all the Cabinet Ministers will re-assemble in town on the 20th instant.

With reference to the explosion on board her Majesty's ship *Triumph*, the Admiralty, immediately on receipt of the news, communicated with the friends of the deceased, and telegraphic orders went sent to all stations that *Xerophyta* Saccata was a dangerous ex-convict.

Lieutenant Howard, R.D.N., has arrived in London from New York to take over the *Jeanette*, having forcibly rendered its projected search after the American exploring ship useless. M. Howgård proceeds now to Paris to consult with Mr. Gordon Bennett, and afterwards to Utrecht, where he is to arrange with Dr. Snellen, who is the leader of the proposed Dutch Arctic Expedition to the mouth of the Yenisei, to take the command of the expeditions. Negotiations are being carried on with Sir Allen Young for the loan of the *Pandora* to take the Dutch expedition to the Arctic regions.

THEATRE.

GLOBE.

The drama by Mr. Herman Merivale, produced three months ago at Manchester as *A Modern Faust*, was played on Saturday night for the first time in London at the Globe Theatre, under the title of *The Cynic*.

The rumours which had been heard of the literary skill displayed in Mr. Merivale's work, and of the opportunity which it affords for powerful acting, proved to have been well founded, and whatever may be the ultimate fate of the piece there can be no question concerning the deep impression which it was able to make. There are, however, great difficulties with which an author has to contend when he writes a play for the stage.

"I have had a wonderful thing it should be called to happen without my knowing anything of it. I felt sorry for the man, but could not understand how he could have been hurt. Some days after that I got a summons, and I said, innocently enough, to the constable who served it, and told me it was about Brooks. 'Oh, yes; I expected it,' as I thought, having been with him, we were sure to be called as witnesses for him. 'When I knew what it meant, I got angry to think he had accused me of it. I never feared the end. I thought nothing would come of the summons before the Magistrates. The next day I went to the Magistrate, and was committed to the Sheriff Assizes, bail being taken for each of us for £100, and £100 of our own. We went to Stafford on Friday, 23d of January, 1880, to be tried. The trial took place on the Monday following, and on the 26th we were sentenced. I could not believe my ears. I tried to speak, but they told me to shut up, and hurried me out of Court. I was not satisfied with what was done for us by the lawyers, and am now taking advice what to do. Clowes and I were kept for a time at Stafford Gaol. From there we were taken to Pentonville, where we were kept about six months in solitary confinement. Our next prison was Millbank, where we also remained about half a year. Then we were sent to Chatham, where I was put to work in the navy. After I was sentenced I thought I would have died, as my poor father has done of a broken heart because of this trouble. The chaplain in Pentonville, however, is a kind man, and he gave me some comfort and hope. But many a night I have nearly burst my eyes out with crying about it. My eyesight is very poor now from it. After a while I made up my mind to do the best I could, and not get punished, and so I soon did all I could to please. I gave over even thinking of tobacco, of which I was very fond. I tried hard to content myself. I was known as G 166, and Clowes was G 167. I saw him a good deal, but only managed once in a while to exchange a word. Latterly I was employed in a different gang and saw less of him than ever. We heard rarely from our friends. The first news I heard of my chance of getting out was a week ago. On Thursday last I was told not to go to work and was sent to the hospital, where Clowes and I got better food. On Friday morning they told us that we were to be sent to Millbank, and as they gave us a suit of new clothes my heart jumped, and I was afraid to think too hopefully of what seemed our coming release. We left Chatham at eight o'clock on Friday morning, reached Millbank at eleven in the forenoon. We were then taken into a room and told by the Governor and another that we were to be set free. Some money was given us, and we had new suits of clothes and portmanteaus also handed us. We left Millbank with an officer, who took us to Euston Station, where we got into the 3.20 afternoon train and came on to Burslem. Clowes stopped with me there at the house of one of my friends, Richard Davies, of the Cross Keys Inn, till next day. Crowds of people came to see and shake hands. On Monday 3d, Burslem also called and gave us each £1.6d., and referred to help us in any way he could. On Saturday 10th January, Clowes went on to Congleton, and I was driven in a dog-cart to Leek, where, after calling on friends and buying some things, I left them at a late hour, and walked home with some of my friends."

Samuel Clowes, whom the correspondent afterwards saw, had every appearance of having suffered more than Johnson. He is greatly changed, and weighs five stone less than when he was sent to penal servitude.

In the course of his narrative, he said:—

"I was very thankful when last we were released and on our way home. After leaving Burslem on Saturday morning I went to Congleton, where I was marked day, I met my mother, brother, and a few friends. They took me to the Fair House, where hundreds came to see me and congratulate me. I left them at a late hour, and walked home with some of my friends."

The *Daily News* remarks:—Now that John

and they were condemned and sentenced to ten years' penal servitude. The only corroboration of the prosecutor's statement appears to have been the undoubted fact that he had been injured by somebody, and the existence of a possible, though not very likely, motive on the part of Clowes. Moreover, a third man named Sherratt, who had been originally indicted with the other two, swore to statements which, if believed, would have proved Clowes guilty. The two, however, were "closed through the trial"; and the inconvenience which this artificial and irrational rule of law is always liable to cause can seldom have been more effectively illustrated. It is scarcely too much to say that if Clowes and Johnson had been separately and carefully examined the improbability of finding them guilty, if not the strong probability of their innocence, would have been clearly demonstrated. Yet from some curious scruples against an imaginary unfairness to the accused a salutary reform is still opposed. This would confuse a guilty man and possibly lead him into admission of his guilt, but would not be of much use to the innocent. Greater judges have been put to the test of this trial, and the result is that they have been clearly demonstrated to be far from perfect.

and we have the repulsive spectacle of the young lady's hostess looking on at the steps taken to bring about her ruin. Occasionally, as in the case of Lady Luscombe, the victim is a true Lady Luscombe remonstrates with Lestrange; but her remonstrance clearly means very little. She seems to feel herself powerless to act except under her evil mentor's directions, and, so far as she is concerned, Lestrange would easily win both his money and his revenge. At the critical moment, however, Daisy's honour is saved by her discovery of course, planned by Lestrange—while Faust is bidding her an impassioned farewell. This third act and its predecessor form together by far the strongest and most interesting part of the play. The clear, incisive, self-possessed style of Mr. Veazin as Lestrange places the man's cold-blooded villainy in its most effective light. Miss Litton is able to arouse for Daisy all the sympathy that is possible for the trials of a Gretchen who is turned into a grass-widow, and Mr. Arthur Dacre manages to give earnestness to Faust's love-making. Higher praise than this is indeed due to Miss Litton's creation of a complex and wholly unconventional character.

On the 4th of February *Chamber's Journal*

will have completed its fifth year, and in

commemoration of the event Dr. William

Chambers, the senior conductor, will offer to

his readers a *résumé* entitled "Reminiscences

of a Long and Busy Life." This will appear

the part of the journal to be issued at the end of January.

The movement for the formation of a Scott

Text Society, which was begun in Edin-

burgh last summer, has been well supported,

over a third of the requisite number of mem-

bers having put down their names. The pro-

moters of the society are now about to issue

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Great Britain.

LONDON, JANUARY 17—18, 1882.

THE COMING SESSION.

The Prime Minister is to return to town on the 24th inst., and the Cabinet will meet on the following day, which will leave nearly a fortnight available for the discussion of forthcoming measures before the opening of Parliament on the 7th of February. Mr. Gladstone, it is well known, is as eager for the fray, as fresh and vigorous, as abounding in spirit and confidence as if he were a score of years younger. Yet the coming session will witness the completion by him of half a century's Parliamentary service. If he ever entertained the thought of retiring from public life, or even of lightening his labours by removing to the Upper House, a statesman of his peculiar temperament would discover sufficient reasons for changing his mind in the difficulties now confronting his Administration. The state of Ireland is still disquieting, and the influence of Irish politicians on the conduct of Parliamentary business is full of grave cause for apprehension. It is true that if the Irish party carry into effect their menace of obstruction during the debate on the Address, there will be some compensation, from a Ministerial point of view, for the inevitable embarrassment and scandal. A renewal of obstructive tactics would furnish the Government with a cogent practical argument for amending the procedure of the House of Commons. No such incidental advantage—for either party, or for the country—can be extracted from the revival of the weary and painful controversy over Mr. Bradlaugh's claim to be admitted to take the oath as member for Northampton. If the Opposition are wise, they will not waste their powers and damage their credit by prolonging their resistance, which, should party passions be lashed into excitement, may be overcome by the united vote of the Liberal majority. The "previous question" may be used to defeat Sir Stafford Northcote's proposal to exclude Mr. Bradlaugh, but many members on both sides have begun to see that it would be the more orderly and decent course to settle the matter by passing a short bill substituting, in the classes of cases to be considered, an affirmation for an oath. The Conservatives, in waiving their right to oppose such a measure, would show, in our opinion, both practical judgment and public spirit, though they may not easily induce their younger and more fiery combatants to retreat. A far more momentous issue will be raised by the introduction of the Ministerial scheme for the reform of the rules of the House of Commons. It is above all things to be desired that neither party may approach this question in a heated and exasperated temper. The Ministry are bound to give, and, no doubt, will give to the subject in all its bearings the fullest and the calmest consideration. It must not be supposed that they have resolved to stake everything upon the adoption, absolutely and instantly, of certain unalterable proposals. The Irish Land Bill, as we know, went through more than twenty revisions during its discussion in the Cabinet, and probably some of its clauses were amended at the very last moment. The procedure of Parliament is a subject on which the Government of the day must consult with, and, to a large extent, must defer to, public opinion, and especially to that of the House of Commons. The embarrassments with which the Ministry have to deal are frankly recognized by the country, and the arguments in favour of changes, which will not only put down deliberate obstruction, but will expedite the transaction of ordinary business, are generally admitted to be strong. But there is a disinclination, not confined to one party alone, to surrender the securities for free debate without considering whether the change may lead. Some politicians talk glibly of the necessity for "drastic measures," and the *closure* by a bare majority has been assumed, without sufficient grounds, to be the instrument the Government will call upon the House of Commons to trust them with. Many other amendments in the existing procedure of the House have been suggested and some will be certainly proposed. It is likely that with regard to these an agreement may easily be reached, after an interchange of ideas, by the majority of reasonable men on both sides. But with respect to the *closure* by a bare majority the case is altogether different. The whole mass of the Opposition will not even consent to look at it as an open question. No reasoning will induce them to concede a remedy, as they assert, is worse than the disease. Moreover, they will not be without supporters, or, at any rate, sympathisers, on the Liberal benches. Some Radical politicians are known to be as reluctant as the Conservatives themselves to give up to the Government of the day the power of peremptorily putting an end to debate on any subject whatever. Many other Liberals who see in "government by discussion" the best safeguard of freedom are equally hostile to an innovation that would alter most seriously the character of Parliament and the course of English legislation. We are unable to perceive that the proposed introduction of the *closure* pure and simple has

been received with pleasure by the country, and, when it is considered on its merits, we are inclined, after giving all due weight to the arguments urged in its favour, to come to the conclusion that the reasons on the other side turn the scale. The finality of legislative reforms in England, which depends upon the acquiescence of defeated minorities in what has been accomplished, would be destroyed if it could be alleged that discussion had been stifled by the votes of impatient majorities. The discontent of the Opposition might be suppressed on great occasions, but it would find opportunities of asserting and avenging itself which would not conduce to the rapid despatch of business. It is obvious that few of the objections to *closure* by a bare majority apply to a measure by which the assent of the main body of both parties would be required for the compulsory closing of debate. A majority of two-thirds or three-fourths might be replied upon to join in putting an end to idle and wasteful talk, while it would prevent any allegation that fair discussion had been buried in the interest of a Ministry. The Prime Minister is not likely to ignore the effect of any changes proposed upon the character of the House of Commons. But there are reasons also of practical expediency which, from a party point of view, recommend caution in putting forward projects unfamiliar to the English people. There is no proof that the nation has withdrawn its confidence from Mr. Gladstone, in spite of defeats at elections and municipal gains for Conservatism. There are, however, signs of uneasiness in the political world, which may foreshadow the removal of old party landmarks. There are clouds, too, upon the horizon of foreign affairs. The situation in Egypt is an anxious one. The protracted agony in Ireland and the difficulties in the administration of the Land Act afford matter for scathing or denunciatory criticism. It would be unwise to add to all these dangers the bitterness that would be engendered among Liberals as well as Conservatives if the Ministerial majority, significantly weakened by significant defections, were to impose the *closure* in its crudest form upon the House of Commons.

—
THE COMMERCIAL NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN ENGLAND AND FRANCE.
The Paris correspondent of the *Times* wrote on Tuesday:—
The Cabinet discussed to-day at great length the Anglo-French Treaty of Commerce. The negotiations, as is known, are being carried on just now at Paris alone between Lord Lyons, M. Gambetta, and the Minister of Commerce. It was thought the matter could thus be expedited by avoiding the delays necessarily resulting from carrying on the negotiations from a distance. Lord Lyons knows perfectly well what are the extreme concessions he can agree to, and on their side the members of the French Cabinet conducting the negotiations know that the British Ambassador, coupled with his desire to bring this important question to a satisfactory conclusion, possessed all the necessary elements for doing so. According to the latest news there are signs of insurrection only in South-Western Herzegovina. The territory affected extends from Trebinje to Nevesini or to Fotscha, on the Drina River. The district forms a semicircle, closely following the Montenegrin frontier. The Austrian authorities there, however, still remain undisturbed, none of the telegraphs or other communications being interrupted showing that the insurrection is not yet bold enough to declare itself in the light of day.

The fear that the revolt will soon assume dangerous proportions would be much diminished if it were possible better to guard the Montenegrin frontier, and if there were no signs of a Panslavistic agitation. The papers, however, which have been found not only on the arrested Pero Matanovic, but also on the other insurgents who have been shot or captured, prove that Panslavistic agitators are mixed up with the insurgents. The papers are said to point to the dismissed Serbian Metropolitan Michael and to M. Aksakoff. They also involve some of the leaders of the Montenegrin insurrection after the occupation of Bosnia by the Austrians. Some weeks back I received news from Russia stating that from Odessa to St. Petersburg competent persons, military officers and civil servants, believed that a war with Austria could not long be avoided. It is quite possible that such an impression is, in its origin, connected with the Panslavistic agitations now known to be going on in Dalmatia and Herzegovina.

Governor Jovanovic's plan in dealing with the insurrection is to surround the disturbed districts by echeloning his troops from Antivari, through Crivoscio, up to Narenta and Drina, cutting off all communications with the outer world, especially with the Novi-Bazar district. This, however, will not be sufficient as certain of being concluded after a more or less prolonged interval, but an interval which could not be prolonged for ever. This is not the place to discuss which country the conclusion of a treaty most benefits. What is certain is that, despite all pretences, the treaty is essential to both nations, because the two nations are essential to each other, and because there is an enormous difference between the relations of two nations making an amicable exchange of their products and the relations of two nations combating each other on the field of industry by every means at their disposal and seeking to injure each other than to benefit themselves. Government must place themselves above narrow passions when international relations are in question. It is, therefore, to be supposed that the members of the two Governments have obeyed this duty; that they have put aside the selfish considerations of those who think only of their personal advantage, and that in the diplomatic negotiations relative to the treaty they are looking only to the absolute necessity of the good and cordial relations which may be established between the two nations, economic conflicts being avoided.

Both sides seem just now disposed to make concessions. The difficulties of detail still existing in the question of cottons, woollens, and leathers are every day diminishing through compromises and the adoption of new categories; and it is hoped, as I said on Saturday, that it will not be necessary to have recourse to a fresh promulgation, however short, of the present treaty. All that is possible will certainly be done to avoid it, for in the advanced state of the negotiations the demand for a fresh prolongation would necessitate either delicate explanations or uneasiness as to the final result from the refusal of explanations. As far as there is a desire to arrive at a settlement, but, as, despite the utmost goodwill on both sides, there is no room for adjustment, the negotiations will not be adjusted, an application for a prolongation not going beyond the 15th of March at farthest would in that case be submitted as urgent without giving detailed explanations, but, forewarning almost a certainty of agreement. It is even said here, though in no spirit of recrimination, that the delay might arise from the English Cabinet, which has to decide on a concession on its side on a certain point before a treaty can be signed. What, however, should be especially understood is that the mutual success of a treaty is now impressed on every mind; that M. Gambetta, as it is but fair to state, has promptly perceived this necessity; and that, having perceived it, he has exerted the weight peculiar to him in impressing it on his colleagues, who are now as convinced as himself. Within the French Cabinet according to the accord is complete, and the difficulties of detail which arise are being considered by it, not with the covert design of magnifying them and obstructing the conclusion of a treaty, but with a firm and unanimous intention of smoothing them down. In view of this unanimous resolution, the Ministers intrusted with the negotiations are naturally acting with great confidence and energy, while the English representative on his side is advancing with great confidence of success. The result may now, therefore, be reasonably looked forward to. These elaborate negotiations, which for ten months have been anxiously watched by all those who regard friendly relations between the two countries as essential to the welfare of both, will end amicably, and whatever unforeseen incident may yet gratify alarmists a happy issue may be confidently awaited.

ARREST OF THE BEY'S BROTHER.

Telegraphing on Tuesday night, the Standard correspondent at Tunis says:—

Last night the Tunisian Minister of War, with two hundred native Cavalry, proceeded to the Palace of Sidi Taieb, the younger brother of the reigning Bey. This morning he was made prisoner, and he has now been conveyed to the Bardo. The circumstances which have led to this arrest are curious enough. When the French soldiers were engaged with the Kroumous in April, M. Roustan was making all the necessary arrangements to secure the signature of the Treaty, fearing that, at the last moment, the reigning Bey would take refuge on board some foreign warship, and thus frustrate the pre-arranged plan. M. Roustan made overtures to Taieb Bey, giving him to understand that he would place him on the throne, provided he would sign the Protectorate Treaty. As in the end the Bey signed the Treaty, and M. Roustan's services were no longer required, M. Roustan abandoned him, and a good deal of ill-feeling has since existed between his brother and himself. He is vain appealed to M. Roustan for protection against his own family. Taieb Bey then openly declared that a well-known lady who has played an important part in the Tunisian question, offered to secure the throne to him if (the Taieb Bey) would pay her one and a half millions of francs. M. Roustan never forgave this, and it is well known that the arrest has been effected at his instigation. I had an interview with Taieb Bey three days ago. He told me that he had frequently offered to the French Government to explain what had taken place between himself and M. Roustan, but without any result; and he complained that, after being made a tool to bring about the signature of the Treaty, he has since been completely abandoned and treated as an intruder.

LATER.—It has transpired that M. Roustan lately pressed the Bey on several occasions to arrest his brother Sidi Taieb, but the Bey declined to assume the responsibility. Yesterday M. Roustan informed the Bey that the French Government authorised him to take such a step. Avowedly Taieb Bey has been arrested for intriguing against his brother, but the real cause is now a matter of public notoriety. Taieb Bey also has a French passport, and a special telegram to be sent to Paris, praying the French Government to allow him to proceed to France and there give any explanations that may be required. The affair is causing much excitement here.

—
THE REVOLT IN HERZEGOVINA.

The Vienna correspondent of the Standard telegraphed on Tuesday night:—The first reports which have arrived from the scene of the insurrection consist principally of accounts of small skirmishes and attacks on garrisons, on the post and on block houses. Cattle robbing has commenced in earnest, and the rebels have made several night attacks on villages. For some time to come the reports from the disturbed districts may be expected to be of a similar character. In this guerrilla warfare, as in 1876, bands of insurgents suddenly appear at some unexpected spot, and as suddenly disappear, no one knows whether. According to the latest news there are signs of insurrection only in South-Western Herzegovina. The territory affected extends from Trebinje to Nevesini or to Fotscha, on the Drina River. The district forms a semicircle, closely following the Montenegrin frontier. The Austrian authorities there, however, still remain undisturbed, none of the telegraphs or other communications being interrupted showing that the insurrection is not yet bold enough to declare itself in the light of day.

The fear that the revolt will soon assume dangerous proportions would be much diminished if it were possible better to guard the Montenegrin frontier, and if there were no signs of a Panslavistic agitation. The papers, however, which have been found not only on the arrested Pero Matanovic, but also on the other insurgents who have been shot or captured, prove that Panslavistic agitators are mixed up with the insurgents. The papers are said to point to the dismissed Serbian Metropolitan Michael and to M. Aksakoff. They also involve some of the leaders of the Montenegrin insurrection after the occupation of Bosnia by the Austrians. Some weeks back I received news from Russia stating that from Odessa to St. Petersburg competent persons, military officers and civil servants, believed that a war with Austria could not long be avoided. It is quite possible that such an impression is, in its origin, connected with the Panslavistic agitations now known to be going on in Dalmatia and Herzegovina.

Governor Jovanovic's plan in dealing with the insurrection is to surround the disturbed districts by echeloning his troops from Antivari, through Crivoscio, up to Narenta and Drina, cutting off all communications with the outer world, especially with the Novi-Bazar district. This, however, will not be sufficient as certain of being concluded after a more or less prolonged interval, but an interval which could not be prolonged for ever. This is not the place to discuss which country the conclusion of a treaty most benefits. What is certain is that, despite all pretences, the treaty is essential to both nations, because the two nations are essential to each other, and because there is an enormous difference between the relations of two nations making an amicable exchange of their products and the relations of two nations combating each other on the field of industry by every means at their disposal and seeking to injure each other than to benefit themselves. Government must place themselves above narrow passions when international relations are in question. It is, therefore, to be supposed that the members of the two Governments have obeyed this duty; that they have put aside the selfish considerations of those who think only of their personal advantage, and that in the diplomatic negotiations relative to the treaty they are looking only to the absolute necessity of the good and cordial relations which may be established between the two nations, economic conflicts being avoided.

Both sides seem just now disposed to make concessions. The difficulties of detail still existing in the question of cottons, woollens, and leathers are every day diminishing through compromises and the adoption of new categories; and it is hoped, as I said on Saturday, that it will not be necessary to have recourse to a fresh promulgation, however short, of the present treaty. All that is possible will certainly be done to avoid it, for in the advanced state of the negotiations the demand for a fresh prolongation would necessitate either delicate explanations or uneasiness as to the final result from the refusal of explanations. As far as there is a desire to arrive at a settlement, but, as, despite the utmost goodwill on both sides, there is no room for adjustment, the negotiations will not be adjusted, an application for a prolongation not going beyond the 15th of March at farthest would in that case be submitted as urgent without giving detailed explanations, but, forewarning almost a certainty of agreement. It is even said here, though in no spirit of recrimination, that the delay might arise from the English Cabinet, which has to decide on a concession on its side on a certain point before a treaty can be signed. What, however, should be especially understood is that the mutual success of a treaty is now impressed on every mind; that M. Gambetta, as it is but fair to state, has promptly perceived this necessity; and that, having perceived it, he has exerted the weight peculiar to him in impressing it on his colleagues, who are now as convinced as himself. Within the French Cabinet according to the accord is complete, and the difficulties of detail which arise are being considered by it, not with the covert design of magnifying them and obstructing the conclusion of a treaty, but with a firm and unanimous intention of smoothing them down. In view of this unanimous resolution, the Ministers intrusted with the negotiations are naturally acting with great confidence and energy, while the English representative on his side is advancing with great confidence of success. The result may now, therefore, be reasonably looked forward to. These elaborate negotiations, which for ten months have been anxiously watched by all those who regard friendly relations between the two countries as essential to the welfare of both, will end amicably, and whatever unforeseen incident may yet gratify alarmists a happy issue may be confidently awaited.

THE PERSECUTION OF JEWS IN RUSSIA.

The Odessa correspondent of the Times writes:—

I am enabled to send you a word or two of explanation with respect to the Warsaw anti-Jewish riots on Christmas Day from a non-Russian official source. A great deal of blame has been cast upon the Warsaw authorities for not having put an end at once, as they could have easily done, to the disgraceful attacks and acts of pillage which lasted three days. Notwithstanding that in Warsaw and its districts some 60,000 troops were stationed, the rioters were allowed to carry on their murderous and devastating work almost unmolested, owing to the feeble attempts of the police. The fact is that Major-General Bouterlin, the Chief of Police at Warsaw, who has supreme control over the peace of the town, was at that moment in St. Petersburg, and his assistant, Colonel Poliakov, whom he had left in charge, was so upset and undecided that he did nothing but wait for General Bouterlin's return. General Bouterlin at once started back for Warsaw, and his arrival immediately put a stop to the disorders. At the time of the recent anti-Semitic riots at Kieff a corresponding anti-Semitic effervescence was observable among the population of Warsaw, but General Bouterlin at once posted patrols all over the town, and thus effectively nipped the outbreak in the bud. The anti-Semites seem to have been watching their opportunity, and to have taken good advantage of General Bouterlin's absence on this occasion, while his assistant appears to have been afraid to take any extreme measures on his own responsibility to put down the outbreak.

POLITICAL RUMOUR.

The London correspondent of the Manchester Guardian, writing on Monday night, says:—

I have good reason to believe that the British Commissioners for the negotiation of the French Commercial Treaty have drawn up for communication, not to their French colleagues, but to the French Government, the grounds of their objection to the latest French proposals, and that this very explicit statement will be brought by the French Office to the notice of M. Gambetta, for the information of the French Government, in order to invite an intervention should the conclusion of a special treaty appear in spite of existing circumstances desirable. It is not possible to say that any great confidence is felt in a satisfactory result arising from this proceeding. But it may happen that by a direct communication between the two Governments, with knowledge on both sides of the position at which the respective Commissions have arrived, the consequences of ultimate failure to succeed in agreement may be more clearly perceived.

The announcement that Ministers will be in town on Friday has caused some surprise, and it can hardly yet be affirmed with certainty. But Lord Granville, who is in London, is understood to be gravely occupied with the Egyptian question, and, to a certain extent, with the present crisis in the negotiations as to the French Treaty. I believe Lord Granville called upon the Prince of Wales to-day before his Royal Highness left town for Sandringham. The Foreign Secretary, it may be said, is never in London at this time of the recess without there being a strong likelihood of Cabinet Councils being imminent, and, as such, had the members of the Cabinet are in London, the truth of the statement as to Friday next depends mainly upon Mr. Gladstone's personal intentions with regard to returning to London. His presence in Downing-street would not astonish those who are aware that the two great bills for next session—the County Government Bill and the London Government Bill—are in a condition which requires authorisation upon points of first-rate importance which cannot be settled by Mr. Dodson or Sir William Harcourt without reference to the Prime Minister. Although these and other bills will not be dealt with by Parliament until the reform of procedure has been disposed of, yet it is said they will be thoroughly prepared in order that the Cabinet may be free to decide whether or not it would be advisable to introduce them before the reform of the rules is undertaken. It is decided to conclude the debate on the Address before the reform of procedure is taken up, which is most likely, then it might be found desirable to introduce the County Government Bill, in order that it might be printed and circulated for consideration, while the reform of the rules was engaging the attention of the House.

The contest in the North Riding of Yorkshire is attracting great attention among political men in London. Next session is to be a county session, and besides the question of local government there are so many other questions connected with the counties which are in the horizon of politics. Mr. Rowlandson is eminently a representative man in all the questions affecting the farmers' interests. He won his spurs in Yorkshire by displaying careful attention to and knowledge of agricultural interests in connection with railway charges. One of the most important political questions of the moment is whether the county constituencies are really as Liberal and as disposed for reform as they have been thought to be. Members of Parliament who have been a good deal in contact with the North Riding constituency lately say that the only chance of Mr. Rowlandson's failure lies in the fact that there has been no contest in that division since the introduction of the ballot, and that the tenant farmers do not understand the operation of the ballot, and have not full confidence in its secrecy. It is said no one can understand without it being a fool the power and extent of which it is. A feeling of the power and extent of which it is said no one can understand without it being a fool the power and extent of which it is.

The proposal will be made for the modification of the half-past twelve rule—the rule which prevents official business being taken after half-past twelve. It is not to be applied to the introduction of bills, or to the appointment and nomination of select committees. In future, a notice of opposition to be effective as a block, will require to be given by a certain number of members, say ten, and the rule also will be made inapplicable to the report and third reading of the rules.

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COURT AND FASHIONABLE NEWS.

OSBORNE, TUESDAY.

The Queen and Princess Beatrice drove out yesterday afternoon, attended by

Galignani's Messenger.

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NOTICE.

A four-page Supplement is published with this day's number of the MESSENGER, and will be delivered gratis with each copy of the paper. It contains our American news and an interesting variety of literary extracts.

Great Britain.

LONDON, JANUARY 18-19, 1882.

INTRIGUE AND DISTURBANCE IN THE EAST.

Difficulties grow upon Austria as she endeavours to bring within the general system of the Empire her new eastern possessions. They are not gratuitous difficulties like those in which France has entangled herself in North Africa, against the advice of her true friends and by that of her rival, Austria, in accepting the trust of Europe at Berlin to restore tranquillity in Bosnia and Herzegovina, knew the heaviness of the task. She knew that the soil was sown with dynamite. The dangers which lay on the surface were not likely to be the worst. Equally it may be believed that wild exaggerations have been current on the exigencies to be met and the preparations in process with which to encounter them. No formed design, it may be taken for granted, exists on the side either of Russia or of Turkey to raise Bosnia and Herzegovina in general rebellion. That aay principle, Pan-slavism or another, should discover foothold even in the ch. a. of Bosnia and Herzegovina to use a lever against settled methods of administration is surprising. That Russia, still mighty though a prey to all kinds of tribulations and anxieties, should have forces to spare for operations outside is less amazing in view of the resources our Constantinople Correspondent shows to be wielded by the tottering Ottoman Empire as the representative of Pan-slavism. In Bosnia and Herzegovina Pan-slavism, from its home in Russia, continues potent. Though it is anticipated that the Mussulman landowners will throw their weight in the scale against the Austrian conscription, Pan-slavism has not erected its head there. In Asia and North Africa it is as eager and combative as Pan-slavism in Eastern Europe. Our correspondent traces its original birth to Mecca, and its present domicile to the Sultan's palace. Despairing of a recovery of his lost possessions in Europe, hopeless of protection from the Western Powers, fearing a pretender to his throne among the devout believers in Arabia, Abdul Hamid has screened the Sultan behind the Caliph, and unfurled in spirit the standard of the Prophet. Our correspondent derides the fancy that the house of Ottomans will ever be able to reconstruct the edifice of Mussulman supremacy. The attempt might not be absolutely futile had an Ottoman sovereign the virtue or the vigour to compel his Court, himself, and his provincial delegates to rule, and to rule with justice. Internal reform is treated by Abdul Hamid as impracticable. To English expostulations he answers that reforms imply arduous legislative work and profound administrative changes. He expects Lord Dufferin to believe that a new system of jurisprudence is needed to punish a Cadi for taking bribes and a Pacha for extortion. Not new laws and administrative machinery are necessary, but the will to insist upon the working of the old according to their intention. So long as not a single step, beyond waste-paper decrees, is taken to infuse uprightness and equity into Ottoman administration, the prospect of a Pan-slavist policy is a shadowy dream. Yet Pan-slavism, issuing from the social turmoil of Russian Nihilism and anti-Semitic fanaticism with energy still to embroil Eastern Europe, is a proof that Pan-slavism is not to be measured as an influence for destruction by this incapacity to animate and revivify. Instruments abound everywhere. No career is open for talents in the Ottoman Empire and its dependencies, except administrative tyranny and Palace intrigues. A religious propaganda stimulates the Oriental imagination and promises rich rewards. Egypt and Tunis have already indicated that opportunities are discoverable for its display. Others may present themselves or be made. Our correspondent denies that this formidable weapon was invented by Abdul Hamid. It was in the air ready to pierce his breast; he preferred the alternative of brandishing it himself. But Abdul Hamid, though not its maker, has qualities which fit him to use it with effect. He is endowed with the gifts of patience, a discernment of international weaknesses, and a royal determination not to be neutralized. A Pan-slavist propaganda conducted by him might not inconceivably plunge Europe in discord. It is for Europe to consider whether it will consent to suffer such an evil. Were it possible for the flag of Pan-slavism to regenerate the large expanse of the world which professes faith in the Koran, sympathy with the movement could not be withheld even by Christendom. A scruple might be felt at endeavouring to check a generous impulse. On the contrary, the vague visions the agitation conjures up only lead the Mussulman world astray from the one path at the end of which are prosperity and vitality. Pan-slavism and its professors have never advanced a pace towards realising for individuals or populations the good of which Mahomedanism is capable. Great Britain has no fear for herself of the confusion and feuds Pan-slavism might produce in her Indian Empire. She laments for the Sultan and his actual subjects that their energies should be thrown away upon ambitions which, were they ever so fully successful, to the injury of their neighbours, could not profit themselves. Should German diplomatic ingenuity, and the impetus which comes of the novelty around it, be exerted to make a tool of Ottoman imaginings for political manœuvres among European complications, England would be less indignant at possible inconveniences to herself than astonished at an illustrious statesman's delusion that he can warm himself in a burning house and not be singed. That, however, is for the German Chancellor to meditate. England, he may be sure, will not put herself within reach of the flames to prove her equality with him in nimbleness at evading their fury. -Times.

BARGAINING FOR COMMERCIAL TREATIES.

In spite of the anxious attempts of Mineralists to make out at the time the Joint Note was despatched that it was all over with the Commercial Treaty, it appears that negotiations are still informally going on; and we are even assured in one quarter that their ultimate success is certain. This revival of anticipation of course coincides quite accidentally with the aggravation of the Egyptian difficulty and the increased urgency of maintaining an accord between the two signatories of the Note. No doubt it is only another instance of that "pre-established harmony" of which we are promised an illustration by the French and English tariffs if the treaty is concluded. It was fore-ordained that just when the English Government should begin to be doubtful as to how far they could go with France in Egypt the French Government should begin to see their way to admitting English woollens into France on better terms than they originally offered; there is no connection by way of cause and effect between the two phenomena. This, at least, is what we shall expect to hear from the more judicious partisans of the English Government, few of whom are likely to imitate the candour with which the subject is treated by the Paris correspondent of the *Times*. But we have no doubt at all that what comes out in the statement of that valuable intermediary between Governments is the real truth of the matter. He, it will be seen, is superior to any prudish pretences of excluding political considerations from the bargain. The statesmen of the two countries are of opinion, he tells us, "that the signing of a treaty is for both nations a paramount political necessity, before which considerations of an inferior order ought to give way"; and what he means by "considerations of an inferior order" he lets us very plainly see. They are neither more nor less than those considerations of commercial advantage by which alone the negotiators of a commercial treaty ought to permit their action to be guarded. They are the very subject-matter, and should be the whole and sole subject-matter of the negotiations. The question, however, we are now told, is to be settled apart from its only relevant elements. It is to be settled on the basis of *la haute politique*; which means, in other words, that the French, who cannot be got to see any attractiveness in our offers from a commercial point of view, can be induced to regard them in a different light with certain political advantages thrown in. Whether a treaty will be concluded on these terms it is too early perhaps to say with confidence; but it is quite as likely as not that it will be; and most mischievous will be its example if it is. What will have happened will be this: that the Government, foreseeing in the failure of the treaty negotiations a discredit to their diplomacy, loss and confusion to English trade, industrial suffering and discontent, and all the embarrassments to themselves which these things imply, will have simply compounded for their escape from evils by trafficking with the political interests of the country, bartering away its freedom of political action, or even, in the present case, committing it to a partnership in perilous political adventures. Nor can this be called a casual and exceptional, if not toward incident of commercial treaty-making; on the contrary, the risk of its recurrence is a permanent risk, arising as it does out of the permanent relation in which we stand to other countries as the sole free-trader in a community of protectionists. Unable from the nature of the case to convince our neighbours of their reciprocal interest in free admission of our manufactures, and having little or nothing left to offer them in the way of a reduction of our own duties, we are likely to be more and more often compelled to open our political wallet in order to effect "a deal" at all. And already, therefore, it is not too soon perhaps to ask what sort of "free trade" that is in which we have to purchase a market for our goods at the cost of our political interest, and even, it may be, the safety of our empire. -St. James's Gazette.

PANISLAMISM AND THE CALIPHATE.

The following is an extract from a long letter which the *Times* publishes from its Constantinople correspondent:—

Panislavism and Panislavism have a certain external resemblance. Both have a double aim—that of renovating the native institutions in accordance with certain old principles, and of extending the influence of the country to foreign populations. For the first of these the Sultan looked about for an energetic Mussulman reformer and immediately found one, who would suit him in Khaireddin Pacha, who had written a book on "Progress in Mussulman States," and who was warmly recommended by Sheik Zaffar. Khaireddin had some of the requisite qualities. He had acquired, it was thought, all the learning of the Giaours without ceasing to be a devout Mussulman, and could speak eloquently on the possibility of combining Western civilisation with the true fundamental principles of Islam. As Prime Minister to the Bey of Tunis, he had shown himself to be an able, energetic administrator, and he had the reputation of being peculiarly honest. Though a Circassian by birth, he was an Arab by language and sympathy, and he might consequently co-operate in bringing about a desired rapprochement between the two and the Sultan. The Khedive, which they considered more likely than not to be a Mussulman, discovered in Egypt. It is most improbable that the Powers in question—namely, Germany, Austria, Russia, and Italy—will address a note to the French and English Cabinets, formally expressing their regret at their having interfered in the internal affairs of Turkey without first consulting the Government of that country, and giving the two Cabinets to understand that if any action was considered necessary or advisable, it ought to have been taken of an international character; that is to say, that all the Powers should have had a voice in the matter.

An incident has arisen between the Turkish Government and the French Embassy here, which, whilst putting to the test the validity of the Bardo Treaty, is not likely to improve the present somewhat strained relations existing between the two Governments. Some time ago a Tunisian was arrested here, and duly registered himself at the French Consulate as a subject of the Republic, in conformity with the said Treaty. Subsequently he entered into a contract with the Prefecture at Istanbul with the nature of which it is not necessary to detail here. It will suffice to say that the conditions of the arrangement, according to the Tunisian, were not properly carried out by the other party, and finding he could not secure redress, he lodged a formal complaint at the French Embassy. Finally, an action was brought against the Prefecture by the Tunisian, and the home party was confined to strengthening the Mussulman element, suppressing the associations of the Christian nationalities, and making attempts towards liberating the Government from all foreign influence or control.

The schemes of foreign propaganda were less ephemeral than the projects of internal reform. Personages of distinction in all parts of the Mussulman world were encouraged to visit Constantinople, and those of them who came here received a liberal hospitality and marked consideration. At the same time agents were sent to Mussulman countries far and near to propagate the idea that the Sultan was Caliph was the chief and protector of all true Mussulmans. As in the Catholic world, the veneration for the Pope is generally in the ratio of the distance from

PARIS, SATURDAY, JANUARY 21, 1882.

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London which is to be played at Prince Leopold's marriage has caused great exasperation among our native professors; and surely, on such an occasion, an English composition might have been found capable of accomplishing a task which does not involve any very vast amount of talent.

The Chippenham ball, which for many years has taken a high place among country assemblies, was held last week, and was fairly successful, nearly 200 being present. Lady Neeld brought a large party from Gritton, but nobody came from Badminton, and the family were only represented by Lady Georgiana Codrington and her daughters.

Next morning the Duke of Beaufort's hounds met at Hartsham Park, and in the course of the day they got a very fast run of over an hour. The pack swam the Avon for the third time in a fortnight, at almost the same place, and were followed by Lord Worcester and one or two more; but the swollen state of the river frightened the majority of the field.

Lady Grace Lowther had a bad fall when hunting with the Cottesmore the other day, but escaped with a severe shaking.

It appears that the brothers Morewood are cruising in the Mediterranean with their sister, on the yacht of a friend. If this friend does not marry their sister, they have announced by lot which of them is to treat her as did their own brother.

Lord Willoughby de Broke has imitated the example of the Duke of Beaufort, and has admonished his followers against that reckless riding which results in serious damage to horses and fences. He recommends them carefully to peruse "Handley Cross."

The Croome hounds had a splendid run last week. They met at Powick and killed at Hallow; the pack was very fast, considering the heavy going, with scarcely a check throughout. There were more falls than on any previous day this season, and a dozen came to fearful grief in Hallow-brook, which was unusually full. Lord and Lady Lowther and their boys were well in front through.

Last week the young Duke of Newcastle obtained a brush in a strange way. Lord Galway's hounds ran a fox into Clumber Park, and it took to the water, pursued by the pack, who caught it up and killed it about fifty yards from the bank. The Duke, who was fishing for pike from a boat, pulled at the spot, and, having picked up the carcass, brought it to the shore, where Lord Galway was the only person in at the death, as his Grace was the last person to have fished to him at once presented it to him.

Dr. Close must think that the end of things is verily at hand when he learns that his successor has established choral communions in Carlisle Cathedral—a "Papistical innovation," which was at all times the subject of the late Dean's comminations. Dr. Oakley has been warmly welcomed by the excellent Bishop of the diocese, and he will doubtless awaken the Mother Church from its long slumber.

The recent gales have made rare havoc in the north. On Lord Broadbent's Perthsire estates some 12,000 trees have been blown down in a circuit of a few miles, and on the Dunse Castle property, in Berwickshire, it is estimated that 50,000 have fallen. Last week, some of the oldest and finest trees at Glamis Castle were uprooted, and timber to the value of nearly £100,000 was floating about in the Firth of Clyde.

Whilst amateurs are invading the stage, actresses are invading the realms of romance and poetry. Mrs. Kendal has come forward as a poetess, and some pretty verses of her composition, entitled "Time passes on," have been set to music by Mr. Walter Mayne, and published.

The question of the scarcity of gentlemen willing to accept volunteer commissions under the present conditions of service is forcing itself upon the military autocrats at Pall Mall. There is little doubt that the expense of providing outfit, subscriptions, etc., attendant upon accepting a commission, tends in a great measure to prevent young men from joining the service. Either many of these superfluous drains upon the pocket must be discharged by the Government, or some substantial advantages should be accorded to the force to make it worth the while of anyone to accept a commission. Could not the volunteer service be made a means of passing into the regular army on the same principle as that existing in the militia?

"It being Christmas time, and mistletoe being about," Miss Anna Graham, maid-servant to Dr. Bevan, "the elder," for kissing her, but has declared herself satisfied with an apology. If elders will kiss Susannahs, instead of eyeing them from a distance, they would do well to choose Christmas for these osculatory performances. Susannahs who object to them should not allow mistletoe to be about the bars in which they serve and shine.

I have just opened a coroneted envelope, and from its enclosed letter have learnt that the secretary to a Dairy Company has been directed by a Right Honourable Earl to inform me that the Company has increased the number of its cows. Also that the Right Honourable Earl has his public conditors and suppliers will and create, and that eggs or poultry, which they deliver direct. It would not be surprising should trade societies object to a coronet being used as a trademark, or were the owners of coronets collectively to do so; but, failing any objection on the part of either of these, the Inland Revenue may feel interested in the matter.

The new omnibuses that have been built from plans of Captain Molesworth, and which appeared recently in the streets, are a vast improvement over the old-fashioned bus, and this week the Captain has exhibited some cabs in the City, which are very ingeniously constructed, somewhat on the model of his omnibuses. Any one who would sit at end to the growler would be a public benefactor. The growler trust that the new cabs will soon be plying at railway stations and the streets.

Tourists will be sorry to hear that the ss. *Gilana*, which Major-General Macdonald placed, at great expense, on the waters of Loch Rannoch last year—where it was the first craft of its kind—foundered last week in a storm. It is to be hoped that the unlucky vessel may be raised and floated again, and that a small winter dock may be constructed for its future safe keeping.

I am glad to see by the Admiralty Regulations just issued respecting the Naval Cadets, that four Cadetships are to be given annually to sons of gentlemen in the colonies, and a certain number, not exceeding five, to sons of gentlemen received from the officers of the Army and Navy, who have been killed or injured in action, or who have been lost at sea or died whilst on active service.

The turret ships after the *Invincible* type, which are being completed at Chatham, are not to be fitted with the electric light at present, as the Admiralty are considering the whole question of the lighting of ironclads. It would save a deal of expense if "My lords" came to a speedy decision, as, if the light is to be adopted generally, it will be a pity to lay up the new vessels in a few months, in order that they may be fitted with it, when it could be done so much better before they are commissioned.

IN THE GREEN-ROOM OF THE PARIS OPERA HOUSE.

What could have tempted Mlle. Krauss to solicit the part of Marguerite in Gounod's *Faust*? It is not the function of a church-organ to imitate the notes of a light song. Mlle. Krauss is a tragedian of singular

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Great Britain.

LONDON, FEBRUARY 19—20, 1882.

GENERAL SKOBELEFF'S SPEECH.

General Skobeleff, as we are informed by our Paris correspondent, denies that he uttered the extraordinary language attributed to him by some of the Paris journals. If, indeed, this were the first example of General Skobeleff's helicose orations, it would be almost incredible that he should have spoken of an ally of his country terms only applicable to a declared enemy. We ourselves, however, as well as the Austrians, have had some experience of the delicate tact shown by this distinguished officer in his language concerning foreign countries. Thus, though it is possible that the fierce invective against Germans with which General Skobeleff has been credited is in a great measure exaggerated, Englishmen will not be disinclined to believe that the speech in question was pugnacious, and calculated to create bad blood between Russia and Austria, as well as between Austria and the Slavs on her border. It is high time that these inflammatory and disquieting harangues from men in the high position of General Skobeleff should be summarily stopped. If the Russian Government professes to hold any check at all upon its officers, now is the time to exercise such a restraint. At a moment when Austria is engaged in the suppression of an insurrection in the Herzegovina we might expect Russia and Russian agents to be extraordinarily cautious in not lending colour to reports of Russian intrigues on the frontier. Information emanating from Vienna is to the effect that, in the opinion of the Austrian Government, derived no doubt from official Russian assurances, these reports are without foundation; and Count Kalnoky has already declared his confidence in Russian protestations of anxiety. On the other hand, the accounts which our Vienna correspondent gives of the alarming rumours that prevail throughout South Eastern Europe, culminating in the reported resignation of M. de Giers and the appointment of General Ignatief to the Minister of Foreign Affairs, show an apprehension of danger which itself is an intolerable evil. It now becomes a primary international duty that Russia should cease to permit the embarrassment of an ally by the declamations or the acts of the Russian military caste. Gen. Skobeleff's tone is only a sample of the tone generally adopted by less prominent and less responsible men in and out of Russia. The Russian Government, by the laxness of its discipline, becomes morally responsible for a state of things distinctly endangering the peace of Europe. The Court of St. Petersburg is in duty bound to show to Austria by conduct as well as by bare professions that it really abides by the Berlin settlement. Austria is now following out the legitimate consequences of that settlement, signed by every party interested, by Turkey and by Russia herself. Austrians are entitled, in their difficult and delicate position, to the loyal support of all the signatories of the treaty. If, in carrying on the occupation sanctioned by the Powers, Austria has dealt somewhat strictly with a race accustomed to the lax Ottoman rule, that is no valid pretext for outside interference. Those who treat, like General Skobeleff, the financial and commercial progress of Austria in the Slav countries, as an armed invasion would seem determined to find something to quarrel about. The least Europe can expect is that all this rhetoric of persons in high places, all this declamation adverse to the peace of Europe, should be at once repudiated and repressed. However soon the Russian Government may disclaim responsibility for the sentiment, the position of the speaker cannot fail to breed alarm and suspicion in the financial, if not in the political, world. So far as the authority of the Czar in his partial seclusion extends, Europe has the right to ask that it shall be used to prevent the recurrence of firebrand speeches from Russian Generals, and most of all from the first of Russian Generals.—Times.

The Standard says:—General Skobeleff affects to be indignant at the report of his recent speech to the Servian students in Paris, to which, as he does not profess to be a politician, he considers too great importance has been attached. He complains that he has been much misrepresented in the matter, though he admits that the spirit of his remarks has been faithfully reproduced. Starting as it was the Speech, and yet more surprising, if possible, as was the reply of the Russian Consul General in Bulgaria, M. Chitrovo, to an Address presented to him a few days since by a Deputation from the Central Slav Committee of Moscow, the significance of these two curious incidents would be lost were not a distinction to be made between official, diplomatic, and governmental Russia on the one hand, and the formless, nameless, unaccredited Russia on the other, which feels, thinks, acts, and speaks in a semi-blind, semi-conscious, semi-articulate manner, quite independently of the Czar, of his Ministers, his Diplomats, and his army. General Skobeleff has won world-wide fame as a soldier, and his services were rendered under the authorised flag of the Russian nation. He has distinguished himself alike in Europe and in Asia, and his name and the name of the fields he won are sufficiently identified with the recognised glories of his country to give hap-

tismal titles to the Russian navy. But for all that, General Skobeleff has always been something more than a soldier of the Crown. He has taken care to maintain a vigorous and distinct personality of his own; and though he has served the Imperial Government of St. Petersburg with singular valour and fidelity, he has uniformly dissociated himself from its more prudent policy, and has not hesitated openly to repudiate all sympathy with its subordination of Slavonic yearnings to the preservation of a good understanding with the European Powers. In the language, therefore, which he has just employed there is nothing substantially new. He has only said what everybody knew he thought. It is the choice of time and place that has caused his words to resound through Europe. He has sent down the Funds at Vienna; he has raised a tremendous newspaper clamour at Berlin, and called forth an expression of the deepest sorrow and indignation from the German Emperor. That he should have done so is not wonderful. He has "caught up the whole of truth and uttered it," as far as the relation of Russia to Germany and Austria is concerned. "We are not at home in our own house," he says, or has been made to say. "The foreigner is everywhere, and his hand in everything. We are the dupes of his policy, the victim of his intrigues. If you wish to know the name of this foreigner, this intruder and intriguer, I will name him. It is the German." Language so downright and plain-spoken as this may possibly be unwise and ill-timed; but if anybody thinks it is extravagant, I say, "What's that a great war is inevitable if the Austrians go on oppressing the Slavs in Bosnia and the Herzegovina. I hate war. On my honour and conscience, I detect it. Before God I tell you that I do. I have had 21,000 men killed under me in one campaign, and have realised all that is sickening, cruel, odious, atrocious in the military profession. My object, therefore, is to obtain by the truth the results which our people may think can be accomplished by force and what we will give to gain what we want. If diplomats will shut their eyes to facts, there is nothing to be gained by what is called diplomatic discretion. The two greatest masters in diplomacy were Cromwell and Bismarck, and they always talked with the frankness of business-men who knew what they wanted, and saw how to get it."

"Well, what is it Russia wants to get?" I interrupted. "Nothing for herself," said General Skobeleff. "We are a people of idealists. We are capable of great enthusiasm, and self-sacrifice. What do we see? Our brothers tyrannised over by the Austrians. They have made their first approach in Bosnia, and domination over all the Slavs in the Balkan Peninsula. She was given to trust, and trust only, as the English were given Corfu, the two Slav provinces that she is now oppressing. She has no right to conspire for her army, the young men there, nor to interfere with the religion of the people. A clerical propaganda has been established by her. The Jesuits that were cleared out of France, Austria received with open arms. The Jesuit fathers are dressed up with her connivance as Greek Popes, and go about trying to entice the peasants from their faith. The Jesuits are consistent, I observed, "in trying to convert, but is it possible that any Slavonic Government could be so foolish as to institute a propaganda, such as you describe?" General Skobeleff declared that nothing was more certain than that all Russia would unite to combat the military clericalism of the Austrians in the States under her protection. Their formula would be "Hands off." If Europe insisted on the observation in letter and spirit of the Treaty of Berlin Russia would be satisfied. She agreed to that treaty, which was not a good one for her or for the Slavs beyond the Danube; but it was secured to the rest of the world that she would not be allowed to interfere with the freedom of the opposition. It will be long, sanguinary, and terrible; but the Slav will triumph." That is to prophesy—a proverbially dangerous function. Yet no cautious observer will laugh at the prediction. The forces that would be brought into play by such a struggle would be many and complex. Were Russia avowedly to put itself at the head of a great Panslavonic movement, there is not a root of ground between the Rhine and the Black Sea that would not feel the convulsion. Austria would have to fight for dear life, and thousands of those who are now denominated her subjects might be found arrayed against her. The powerful sword of Germany would nominally be at her disposal; but would not its edge be required to ward off assault upon the West? When General Skobeleff in Paris denounces "the German," he wakes a suppressed echo in other than Servian hearts. When he adds "we are dominated and paralysed to such an extent by his influence and disastrous influences that, if we are to deliver ourselves from them, as I hope we shall some day or other, it can only be done by us sword in hand," he must know, and if he does not know others do, that he is uttering the thought dearer even to French than to Slavonic hearts.

We publish a telegram, says the *Daily News*, from our Paris correspondent describing an interesting conversation which he has had with General Skobeleff. Though the General complains that the French journals have exaggerated and distorted the remarks which he made to the Servian deputation, his tone was sufficiently helicose at the interview to which we have referred. If Austria continues, he said, to oppress the Slav population of Bosnia and the Herzegovina, there will be a great war. It is General Skobeleff's opinion that Europe will unite to combat the "military clericalism" of Austria, but it is at all events in his view the duty of Russia to rescue men of her own race from servitude to an alien Power. These threats are directly aimed at Austria-Hungary, but the General expressed annoyance at what he considered German indifference to Austrian aggression. The feeling at Berlin, which our correspondent in that city declares to be growing continually more bitter, is certainly not one of indifference to Russian menaces. The relation between the two countries has been no doubt changed for the worse by General Skobeleff's repeated outbursts of a sentiment to which militant patriotism is the very mildest phrase that can be applied. General Skobeleff, however, is not an agent of the Russian Government. He is a brilliantly successful commander, bent on making for himself a great career, and he may be willing to incur temporary disapproval, or even disgrace, in pursuit of future influence, for which he is young enough to wait. The pacific temper of the Czar, who is believed to be particularly desirous at the present time of a friendly understanding with Germany, is of more importance than what may be the calculation of a fiery soldier. It is rather to be hoped than expected that the internal troubles and disorder of Russia may increase her aversion from war. The correspondence respecting the treatment of the Jews in that country which has just been laid before Parliament, while it does not confirm the worst of the alleged outrages, tells a melancholy story of popular fury and administrative apathy.

AN INTERVIEW WITH GENERAL SKOBELEFF.

The Paris correspondent of the *Daily News*, telegraphing on Sunday night, says:—

Ascertaining that General Skobeleff had not

recently quitted Paris, I called this afternoon and had nearly half an hour's conversation with him. I said to him "General, you have been interviewed by an editor of the *Voltaire*. An account has been given in *La France* of your answer to the Servian students. Are they both true?" "I received," said the General, "a journalist from the *Voltaire* and a Servian deputation, but what I said in both cases has been frightfully exaggerated." I said, jocosely, "I am glad to hear you say so; for to be frank, if you talked in the manner it is alleged, you did, it would be the duty of the *Voltaire* to make you join M. Lavrov." "No," answered General Skobeleff, "you surely cannot mean that."

"Personally I am against all expulsions, but as the object of the French Government is to keep out of hot water and in peace with the world, I think it would be only logical, had you spoken as you are represented, to request you to leave France." "Is that your impression?" he asked. "Certainly," I returned. "I repeat," he said, "that the French journalists have terribly and ridiculously exaggerated what I said. I did not come at all to a storm, but to avert one, which, as far as I can see, frank speaking. If I say that this disagreeable fact exists, I am not responsible for its existence."

"What's that a fact?" I inquired.

"That a great war is inevitable if the Austrians go on oppressing the Slavs in Bosnia and the Herzegovina. I hate war.

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COURT AND FASHIONABLE NEWS.

WINDSOR CASTLE, SUNDAY.

The Queen, accompanied by Princess Beatrice, and attended by the Dowager Duchess of Roxburghe and the Equerries in Waiting, arrived at the Castle at 5.30 p.m. yesterday from Buckingham Palace. Her Majesty and Princess Beatrice attended Divine service this morning in the private chapel. The Rev. Thomas Rowell, Deputy Clerk of the Closet to the Queen and Canon of Westminster, preached the sermon. Her Royal Highness the Duchess of Connaught drove out this morning, accompanied by the Duke.

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Great Britain.
LONDON, JANUARY 21—22, 1882.

M. GAMBETTA'S POSITION.

We are not specially concerned to defend M. Gambetta's policy in bringing forward the revision at once and making *scrutin de liste* one of its conditions. That is a question rather for Frenchmen themselves than for foreigners, though we cannot help thinking that a prudent statesman would have preferred to let sleeping dogs lie when there was no urgent reason for rousing them. On the other hand it cannot be denied that he is well within his right in bringing forward the revision at once. He holds that the country pronounced its judgment on the question at the late elections, and that he, as its chosen representative, is bound to fulfil its behests. This view of his duties is abundantly justified by the fact that the Committee elected by the Bureaux is not opposed to revision pure and simple. Whatever course he chose to adopt, therefore, whether to propose revision at once or to postpone it for a time, he was beset with alternative dangers. Of his opponents on the Committee a large majority wishes for a more extensive revision than he has proposed, while the minority wishes for no revision at all. In any case, and at any time, he must have faced the opposition of the latter, and it remains to be seen whether he cannot either conciliate or overcome that of the former. We cannot, but hope that he will succeed, not indeed because we are satisfied of the abstract wisdom of his policy, but because it is manifest that a fatal collision between himself and the Chamber would be a serious misfortune, involving interests a good deal wider than those of France alone. If he were forced by the Chamber to resign, his power and influence in France would still remain unimpaired. He would be succeeded either by a Reactionary Ministry, whose fate would be in his hands, or by a more advanced Republican Ministry, which the country itself would distrust. In neither case would France acquire a Government possessing the stability which is essential to the welfare of the country. If M. Gambetta can surmount the difficulties which now seem to beset him, either by accepting the programme of the Committee and leaving the details of the revision to the Congress, or by some other acceptable compromise, his own stability will be re-established, and he will be free to develop a strong and continuous policy. The evils of the present uncertainty are felt not merely in France alone. No foreign Power can be entirely free from anxiety so long as the policy of France is liable to be changed from day to day, and the engagements entered into by one Government are left to the precarious and possibly reluctant execution of another. If, for instance, M. Gambetta were to be forced to resign and were followed by a series of ephemeral successors, with what prospect of success could England enter on a renewal of the commercial negotiations, and with what confidence could she look for a fulfilment of the joint engagements of the two Powers in respect of Egypt? It is not, however, England that would suffer most by the overthrow of M. Gambetta. The misfortune to France itself would be immeasurably greater. Whatever may be his fate in the Chamber, no one can doubt that he is still the most powerful man in France. If he were to lose the popular confidence, the case, of course, would be different. The vote that deposed him would also designate his successor, and the policy of France, though possibly changed, would still be intelligible and stable. But his deposition in the present circumstances would involve a collision between the country and the Legislature, and would be the inevitable signal for prolonged confusion and instability. It is singular to notice how completely the President of the Republic has effaced himself during the present crisis. M. Grévy, it is true, has always been disposed to regard himself as *Chieftain* whose function it is rather to reign than to govern; but unless there are occasions on which a President can assert himself with advantage and interpose as a moderating force to avert disastrous collisions, and bring about political compromises, it is not very easy to see that he serves any useful purpose. M. Grévy cannot be blind to the disadvantages imposed on France by a succession of feeble Ministries. He cannot but discern the significance of the late elections and the legitimate and constitutional power they confer on M. Gambetta. He at least is responsible for the continuity of French policy, and he must be aware that that continuity would be imperilled if M. Gambetta were replaced by a Ministry without the authority which rests on popular confidence. For ourselves we cannot but hope that M. Gambetta will succeed. With his domestic policy we have no direct concern. But his foreign policy concerns England closely, and his disposition towards England has been a good deal more friendly than that of many of his predecessors.—*Times*.

THE WHIGS AND THE NORTH RIDING.
Lord Grey and Lord Zetland, and the small handful of Whig landlords who are doing all in their power to secure the return of a Conservative and a Protectionist in the North Riding of Yorkshire, because they are so passionately desirous to deliver a severe blow to Mr. Gladstone's Government, are, the *Spectator* says, foolish enough to read backwards Lord Derby's striking warning to those who would keep democracy moderate by assuming the lead of its tendencies. No one ever uttered a wiser or weightier political aphorism than Lord Derby, in his address to the Liverpool Reform Club a fortnight ago, when he told them that in his belief, "the moderation, the fairness, and the general justice with which masses of men, including all conditions of life, are disposed to use their power" in this country, need nothing to perpetuate them, except that the rich should put themselves at the head of movements leading up to the necessary reforms. That is what we have always claimed for the Whigs. It would have seemed to us highly creditable that a great peer with Lord Grey's decided antipathy towards Free Trade—for he was a Free Trader before Lord John Russell or Sir Robert Peel accepted the principle of Free Trade—should actually wish success to a candidate who has promised to support the imposition of 5s. duty on corn—*as Mr. Guy Dawney has done in the North Riding—* did we not know only too well that Lord Grey has spent three-fourths of his long political career in devising stumbling-blocks for the party with whom he is, in early life, it was his pride and privilege to act. As for Lord Zetland, we are unable even to guess at the views which have led him to take up with the reactionary party. But of this we are quite sure—that the few great Whigs who are now going over to the enemy are doing so because they like not the effect of retarding reform, though that is their desire, but with the effect of removing whatever regulative influences they would otherwise have exerted over the prudence and the moderation of reform. Lord Grey can no more prevent the English and Scotch tenant farmers obtaining what their numbers, their influence, and the depression of their particular industry point out as necessary for their position in this country, than he could, if he wished it—which, of course, he does not—restore the Protective tariff of 1841. But he can make the tenant farmers feel more keenly than they feel at present, that the great Whig families are not their true advisers; that they must go over to a stronger party than the Whigs, if they want real help; that the Whig nobility are, in the words of one of their beginning, "to be found out"; that they are the leaders of the people, but only selfish representatives of a narrow caste. We do not mean that, as this is so. We earnestly desire that it never may be so. We are proud of the great leaders who, like Lord Derby at the present moment, and still more, like the Russells, the Cavendishes, and the Grosvenors, discern what privileges of the ancient days the time has now come for their order to resign, in order that they may enjoy still more fully the greatest of all privileges, that of the trust and love of the people. But we do say that those narrow-minded men who, like Lord Grey and Lord Zetland, desert the people at a moment like the present, do what is in their power—Heaven grant it be only little!—to sticken the people of their caste, and to convince them that the old Liberal aristocracy of England are well nigh played out.

THE RISKS OF EGYPTIAN STOCKS.
Since the present *régime* came into force Egypt has been favoured with good harvests, and has enjoyed excellent markets for her produce. Ends have been made to meet therefore without apparent difficulty, although we believe the real difficulty has been very considerable, so much so that the great power of the agitators, Turkish and national, springs from the

discontent produced in the minds of the fellahs by their burdens. Let the cycle of bad seasons come, however, and there must be immediate deficits. The new Budget promulgated last December showed a bare equilibrium, and since then it has been decided to augment the army, at the cost of another £100,000 at least. As the people have been year by year stripped of all the gains that should have come to them from the good seasons it follows that when the bad come there will be no reserves either in the coffers of the Government or in the hands of the people to fall back upon. The State coach, in short, is so overloaded that a very small stone will suffice to upset it. And here comes in another consideration of great importance. It is that a great deal of the prosperity of the past three years has been produced by outside agencies. Money-lending companies, French and English, have vied with each other in pouring money into Egypt "to develop the country." This money has taken place of the old Government borrowings in sustaining the credit of the country. Lent freely to cultivators, it has enabled them to pay their taxes for a time. Recovery, however, must come; the springs of wealth of this kind are certain to dry up. Already banking in Egypt has suffered severely by the glut of useless money, or of money that vanished like water in the desert sand, absorbed by the aldeavouring claims of the bondholders. It may be said that the failure of seasons is not a sure ground of apprehension; but of this one of a checked inflow of new capital there can be no manner of doubt. It must cease, as all other profitable enterprises do, and it may do so sooner than anticipated through the monetary troubles now developing in all Western markets. These are dangers altogether apart from those incident to the political situation, and alone afford justification for the warning that people should invest but lightly, if at all, in Egyptian securities. For the rest we may be permitted to own that our belief is small indeed in either the will or the power of any man or set of men in Egypt to help the bondholders should the popular will be strong against the foreign Control. It is not in the nature of things that any Egyptian official, be he Turk, Arab, or Circassian, could loyally support the foreign Powers. Their mere presence is a sign of their domination; and bondholders are never loved. A danger must, therefore, lurk in the existing situation, wholly apart from any question of the community of feeling between England and France. Within Egypt itself there are thus a host of perils now only beginning to reveal their existence, and it would be folly therefore to put money into Egyptian securities at such a time. The investing public must not forget either the actual position of much of the debt. What is called the Preference Debt may be well placed, as the market phrase is; but the United Debt, which is nearly 62 per cent. of the entire debt of all descriptions, or over £57,000,000, was held for the most part by speculative intermediaries. Any one investing in that part of the debt now would consequently be ultimately certain to incur great loss by the collapse of these intermediaries, no matter though Egypt was as sound financially as the United States. Such are a few of the facts and considerations affecting the financial stability of Egypt. We might easily add to them, but the thoughtful reader can do that for himself. He may also, if he so pleases, discover the favourable side of the case: it is more than we are able to do.—*Pall Mall Gazette*.

THE FIGHTING IN HERZEGOVINA.
REPULSE OF AUSTRIAN TROOPS.

The *Manchester Guardian* publishes a telegram from its Ragusa correspondent, dated Thursday night. Beginning with the announcement "Herzegovina has risen," the writer continues:—

The Duke of Edinburgh landed at Wick on Friday afternoon, and was received at Putney Harbour by Mr. Duff Dunbar, Sheriff, Spital, and Provost Rae. The garrison was formed by the volunteers, men of the Naval Reserve, and the police, and the Duke was heartily cheered by the multitude who crowded the streets. His Royal Highness drove to Ackergill Tower, where he will remain until Monday the guest of Mr. Duff Dunbar.

Prince Leopold, Duke of Albany, was on Friday night gazetted a colonel in the army. Don Carlos Holguin, Minister Plenipotentiary at the Court of St. James for the United Provinces of Colombia, has been charged by his Government with the important mission of negotiating the renewal of diplomatic relations between Colombia and Spain. His Excellency's instructions are to credit his relations with the Duke of Albany, and to proceed at once to Madrid. On the completion of the negotiations he will immediately return to his post in London.

The Earl and Countess of Derby and Lady Cecil will come to town from Knowsley, for the meeting of Parliament, on or about the 30th inst.

Lord and Lady Lifford, the Hon. T. A. Powys, and the Hon. J. and Hon. S. Powys have arrived at Parish's Hotel, George-street, Hanover-square, from Brighton.

Captain Howard Bury and Lady Emily Howard Bury have left Parish's Hotel, George-street, Hanover-square, for the South of France.

Sir William Richard Holmes, of Kilrea, Belfast, who received the honour of knighthood for his services during the Constantinople Conference of 1876-77, died last week at the residence of a friend at Belvedere, at the age of sixty. From 1850 till 1877 he was Consul in Bosnia, and was British Delegate to the European Commission for the pacification of the Herzegovina in 1861, and Delegate to the European Commission in Herzegovina in 1875. Owing to his knowledge of the disturbed provinces of Turkey he was summoned to Constantinople during the Conference of 1876, in December, in 1876, and January, 1877, which was attended by Lord Salisbury, to give information as to the state of the provinces of Turkey. Sir William, who was on the commission of the peace for the county of Londonderry, married in 1847 Adela Louisa Gohar.

MEETING OF TURKISH BOND-HOLDERS.

STATEMENT BY MR. BOURKE.

A meeting of the Turkish bondholders was held on Friday in Cannon-street Hotel for the purpose of hearing a statement from Mr. Bourke, M.P., as to the result of his mission to Constantinople with the view of effecting an arrangement of the Turkish debt. The Right Hon. E. P. Bourke presided. There was a large attendance. Mr. Bourke said that when he set out a great deal was being said as to an International Financial Commission, but when he arrived at Constantinople found that such a Commission was out of the question. The first question they had to consider when the Commission met was the amount of the public debt of Turkey. They were much surprised to learn that, in addition to the ten loans they had so much about, they were expected to answer for the floating debt, the Russian indemnity, and the 1855 Loan. His opposition, however, led to the whole of these being withdrawn from their consideration. One of the main considerations with them was the amount of the revenues that would be placed at their disposal, but of equal importance was the constitution and powers of the new Council which were to administer the revenues. Upon the conduct of that Council the whole of the future of their property would depend, and he had to tell them that the first duty of that Council, after doing what it could for the bondholders, was to make it a popular institution, so that they could be called upon as an alien or hostile institution but a portion of the Administration of Turkey, wishing to act equitably between the tax-payers and British bondholders. The international character of the Council was, he considered, a satisfactory arrangement, as it gave a guarantee for its stability. Dealing with the revenues that were promised them, he said that they would get £75,000 per annum from indirect contributions alone. The contribution which was payable by Eastern Roumelia, amounting to £240,000, was also assigned to the bondholders. Eastern Roumelia was nearly a year in arrears, but he hoped when the Council was established one of its first duties would be to get this money; and he saw in the budget of Eastern Roumelia that they took this as one of the charges they were bound to pay. It had been said that he had given up the tribute of Bulgaria, but that was not true. That tribute could not be given by the Porte as it could not be taken by the Porte as it was. The tribute was given up by the Porte and the Mayadys. They were much surprised to learn that, in addition to the ten loans they had so much about, they were expected to answer for the floating debt, the Russian indemnity, and the 1855 Loan. His opposition, however, led to the whole of these being withdrawn from their consideration. 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Great Britain.

LONDON, JANUARY 22—23, 1882.

THE "QUARTERLY REVIEW" ON THE LIBERAL GOVERNMENT.

The political article in the new number of the *Quarterly Review* is, as its title imports, a vigorous and searching review of the proceedings of the Government during their two years of office. It is unnecessary to say that it is written with clearness and ability. From one point of view it is, of course, a prolonged invective against the policy of the Government at home and abroad; but for every accusation, whether explicitly or implicitly made, it furnishes the specific testimony of facts. Ministers are themselves put into the witness box. They are judged, not by the words of their opponents, or even of their own irresponsible supporters, but out of their own lips. The Reviewer endeavours to ascertain the principle, or the want of principle, by which their action is regulated, from the statements which they themselves have placed publicly on record. It is true that the article is critical only. It does not come within its writer's province to formulate an alternative policy, and, indeed, in the course of the first few pages he declares, with marked significance, that before the Conservatives can be fairly expected to take office Ministers must face more fully than they have yet done the consequences of the actions for which they are responsible. The chief value of the article, therefore, lies in the fact that it is an honest and capable attempt to mature the political opinion of the country, and to supply it in a compendious shape with the *data* on which it should be based. The writer naturally devotes the greater part of his observations to the burning question of Ireland: starting from the time when, just before acceding to office, Mr. Gladstone—in opposition to Lord Beaconsfield's warning that a danger scarcely less disastrous than pestilence or famine was impending—boldly declared that there was a feeling of comfort and satisfaction in that country unknown in its previous history down to the present hour when, as the Reviewer sardonically puts it, Ireland is governed by the most severe Coercion Act of this generation, and Irish patriots are lodged in British Bastilles. Who is it that has caused this startling change? Merely tracing the course of events, the Reviewer traces the responsibility to the doors of Downing-street, and fastens upon the Prime Minister the charge of having wantonly evoked the demons he now finds himself powerless to lay. The "infinitely disgraceful admission" that the Land League was not dissolved at an earlier period because the tenants of Ireland would have no organisation to fall back upon, and the Government no excuse for introducing their Land Bill, is condemned with unsparing severity; and the appeal of the Prime Minister to the "Divine light of justice" is answered with an outburst of moral scorn which is perhaps the best, and is certainly the most natural, response to such a misapplication of sacred sanctions. A contrast of telling significance is drawn between the attitude of Mr. Gladstone when he clammed for a meeting of the Cabinet on the news of outrages in Bulgaria, and the happy nonchalant frame of mind with which the Premier and his colleagues dispersed to their homes, "leaving helpless women and children to the tender mercies of Captain Moonlight and Rory of the Hills." The article will no doubt be denounced as a Party attack. The question, however, is, Are the statements contained in it just? That the writer has done his utmost to damage the reputation of the Ministry, and to discredit the pretensions of the Liberal Party, is certain. Has he succeeded? Are his facts correct? Is it true, as he says, that if fewer landlords are now shot in Ireland, it is only because fewer landlords resist? It is true that every form of intimidation and lawlessness was in operation for months before the Government attempted seriously to grapple with them? Is it true that the Prime Minister publicly declared that Mr. Dillon was "a man of a perfect, unswerving integrity, an opponent I am glad to honour"? that Mr. Dillon threw back the compliment with scorn, affirming that Mr. Gladstone's success in life was due to "a singular gift" of skilful misrepresentation; and that the reupon Mr. Dillon was then clapped into prison? Is it true that the Prime Minister apparently makes words mean one thing one day, and a totally different thing, or nothing whatever, the next? Is it the fact, or an exaggeration, that "thousands of estimable persons reposed unlimited confidence in his promises about Ireland, just as they would believe him to-morrow if he assured them that he had suddenly been gifted with the power to perform miracles"? Is it the fact that Mr. Bright declared of the Irish policy of the Liberal party, "I see it giving tranquillity to our people, greater strength to the realm, new lustre and new dignity added to the Crown"? Is it accurate to assert that of the two most able organs of French Liberal opinion, one of them has described the Land Act as "a law of confiscation," and the other, inspired by so advanced a Radical as M. Gambetta, has designated it as "a strong dose of socialism"? These are the quotations, assertions, and charges made by the *Quarterly Reviewer*; and if it be impossible to rebut them, will they be affected by the statement that they form the basis of a Party attack?—*Standard*.

THE NEPAUL CONSPIRACY.

The Calcutta correspondent of the *Times*, telegraphed on Sunday, says:—

Further details have now been received of the conspiracy in Nepal. It appears that a number of persons, chiefly officers in the army, have been plotting for some years past to murder certain members of the royal family, especially the Prime Minister, the Commander-in-chief, and their sons. Having long failed to find an opportunity to do this, they at last determined to imitate the example set years ago by the late Jung Bahadur, and throw a bomb into the room where the Ministers were assembled in council. Some of the conspirators were to station themselves at the doors, so as to cut down anyone attempting to escape. If the plot succeeded the news was to be sent to the remaining conspirators, who were absent in the camp with the Prime Minister, and they were to rise and murder him. It does not appear whether they have any design against the life of the young Maharajah, but it is probable that they only meant to get rid of the Ministry and then themselves in their place. Just before the appointed day, one of the conspirators betrayed the plot. A number of arrests were made, and 21 officers of all ranks, varying from that of colonel to that of subadar, confessed and were all executed on the 16th inst.

The latest news, dated Kathmandu, the 20th inst., is that no further executions had taken place, but severely repressive measures had been adopted, and large gifts of money had been distributed to the priests and troops. The officers who were executed were defiant to the last, and expressed their regret at the failure of the plot. The country is reported to be quiet and open. Mr. Girdlestone, the British Resident, has, doubtless, arrived at Kathmandu by this time. No danger to him or to the members of the mission is anticipated, but, as a precautionary measure, the cavalry outpost at Spowle, on the borders of the Terai, 100 miles to the south of Kathmandu, has been reinforced by one squadron of native cavalry. General Jung Bahadur of the Nepalese army, who lately passed through Calcutta on a pilgrimage to Poorees, has been recalled by telegram. He is an influential member of the Royal family.

THE HERZEGOVINA REVOLT.

The *Standard* has received the subjoined despatch dated Sunday night from its Vienna correspondent:—

Intelligence from the south is scarce to-day, owing partly to the interruption of telegraphic communication, but chiefly to the fact that the authorities have prohibited the telegraphing of news from the scene of the insurrection. We are, therefore, reduced to correspondence by letter, which is only possible twice a week. Warlike operations may be expected now at any moment. Large as is the army assembled south, a few thousand active insurgents are quite capable of keeping it occupied, and, indeed, wearing it out. Often a whole battalion is kept on the alert by ten or a dozen men, who disappear in the woods and caverns, and suddenly reappear in some new and unexpected place. Sometimes the insurgents will venture on an expedition northwards, when complete calm has hitherto reigned, and with them follow the Austrians to place their troops where they will. For the latter there is no glory, but only privation, in store, just as in 1878, when all fuel, and even the fresh water for the men and horses, had to be brought from Austria or Hungary. At that time, as much as a hundred florins were often offered in vain for a plank bed or shelter, and officers, even the Generals themselves, were frequently brought to death's door by their privations. Provisions worth millions were carried away by the floods, which are common in these bleak and mountainous regions.

It is ridiculous to suppose that a serious insurrection in Bosnia can be quelled at a cost of ten or fourteen millions. In 1878 every thousand men there cost one million florins, or a hundred pounds sterling each man. Although Princes Nikita and Milan really desire to fulfil their international obligations, they will be utterly powerless to do so should this insurrection assume considerable proportions. The Montenegrins consider that part of Herzegovina in right belongs to them, and similarly the Servians lay claim to part of Bosnia. Moreover, the Albanians are eager to renew their struggle for independence. The Berlin Treaty, it is feared, would be upset, which would necessarily lead to very serious consequences; but the authorities say that for the next week or two it is probably only small skirmishes will occur. Later, when the mountain snows melt and the ensuing floods come on, impeding the progress of the regular troops, the rising may be expected to assume formidable proportions. The interval will be improved by the Austrians to collect their troops, to provide food, hospital accommodation, wagons, nurses, and all other preparations requisite for the campaign. The general staff is now industriously studying what perhaps will prove to be the seat of the next great war.

Amongst the latest measures reported we learn that the Mostar garrison has been hastily strengthened, and more troops have been sent to Bilek, which is threatened by the insurgents, under Osman Tanovic, with whom a battalion of the Schmerling Regiment yesterday had a narrow escape. Some insurgents, being killed, an Indian agitator, described as a "sheep jock," named Tomaso Arpadovic, has been arrested at Bilek, but was bailed out by a tank. At Agram and other places in Croatia secret conspirations are being made for the insurgents.

THE APPROACHING ROYAL MARRIAGE.

The correspondent of the *Standard* at the Hague telegraphed on Sunday night:—

The Princess of Waldeck-Pyrmont, mother of Queen Emma and of the Princess Helen of Waldeck, the *fiancee* of Prince Leopold, will arrive shortly at the Hague on a visit to the King and Queen of the Netherlands. The Princess will, it is believed, remain at a guest at the Dutch Court until the marriage of Prince Leopold, when it is probable that she will accompany King William and Queen Emma on their journey to London. It has been arranged that, shortly before the marriage, their Dutch Majesties will be brought to England by the Royal yacht *Falcon*, which will take their Majesties on board at Flushing and land them at Queenborough. The retinue of their Majesties will include the Countesses van Ittersum and van de Poll, and three gentlemen of the Court, Admire Jonkheer van Capellen, Colonel Jonkheer Alewyn and Lieutenant de Ranitz. The Belgian papers state that the King and Queen of Belgium will also be among the guests of Queen Victoria at the time of the marriage of Prince Leopold. The statement, however, requires confirmation.

THE WHIGS AND THE NORTH RIDING.

Lord Grey and Lord Zetland, and the small handful of Whig landlords who are doing all in their power to secure the return of a Conservative and a Protectionist in the North Riding of Yorkshire, because they are so passionately desirous to deliver a severe blow to Mr. Gladstone's Government, are, the *Spectator* says, foolish enough to read backwards Lord Derby's striking warning to those who would keep democracy moderate by assuming the lead of its tendencies:—

No one ever uttered a wiser or weightier political aphorism than Lord Derby, in his address to the Liverpool Reform Club a fortnight ago, when he told them that in his

view, "the moderation, the fairness, and the general justice with which masses of men, including all conditions of life, are disposed to use their power" in this country need nothing to perpetuate them, except that the rich should make themselves at the head of movements leading up to the necessary reforms. That is what we have always claimed for the Whigs. It would have seemed to us hardly creditable that a great peer with Lord Grey's splendid antecedents as regards Free Trade—for he was a Free Trader even before Lord John Russell, or Sir Robert Peel had accepted the principle of Free Trade—should actually wish success to a candidate who has promised to support the imposition of a duty on corn—as Mr. Guy Dawney has done in the North Riding—did we not know only too well that Lord Grey has spent three-fourths of his long political career in devising stumbling-blocks for the party with whom, in early life, it was his pride and privilege to act. As for Lord Zetland, we are unable even to guess at the views which have led him to take up with the reactionary party. But of this we are quite sure—that the few great Whigs who are not going to follow him in the remaining conspirators, who were absent in the camp with the Prime Minister, and they were to rise and murder him. It does not appear whether they have any design against the life of the young Maharajah, but it is probable that they only meant to get rid of the Ministry and then themselves in their place. Just before the appointed day, one of the conspirators betrayed the plot. A number of arrests were made, and 21 officers of all ranks, varying from that of colonel to that of subadar, confessed and were all executed on the 16th inst.

The latest news, dated Kathmandu, the 20th inst., is that no further executions had taken place, but severely repressive measures had been adopted, and large gifts of money had been distributed to the priests and troops. The officers who were executed were defiant to the last, and expressed their regret at the failure of the plot. The country is reported to be quiet and open. Mr. Girdlestone, the British Resident, has, doubtless, arrived at Kathmandu by this time. No danger to him or to the members of the mission is anticipated, but, as a precautionary measure, the cavalry outpost at Spowle, on the borders of the Terai, 100 miles to the south of Kathmandu, has been reinforced by one squadron of native cavalry. General Jung Bahadur of the Nepalese army, who lately passed through Calcutta on a pilgrimage to Poorees, has been recalled by telegram. He is an influential member of the Royal family.

THE APOLOGISTS OF JEW-BAITING.

During the past week, the *Saturday Review* says, a very curious spectacle has been seen in England. The abominable outrages to which for months past the Jews of Russia have been subjected had been laid bare, and it could only be supposed that the national conscience, of which so much has been held of late years, would be thoroughly aroused:—

To do the national conscience justice, it has answered to the call, not, indeed, with all that enthusiasm which might have been expected, but with a certain unanimity. The *Pall Mall Gazette* and the *Spectator* may be left to fight out the question whether it is more wicked to demand that Mr. Gladstone shall not keep silence as to the outrages of one of them, beginning "to be found out"; and that they are no longer the leaders of the people, but only selfish representatives of a narrow-minded men who, like Lord Grey and Lord Zetland, desert the people at a moment like the present, do what is in their power—Heaven grant it be only little!—to sicken the people of their caste, and to convince them that the old Liberal aristocracy of England are well nigh played out.

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THE SITUATION IN BURMAH.

The Calcutta correspondent of the *Times* telegraphed on Sunday:—

The news from Mandalay is as to lead to the belief that a crisis may occur at any moment. There seems to be no doubt that the King's recent illness was *delirium tremens*, and it was felt that his life was hardly worth a day's purchase. Should he die, there is certain to be a struggle for the throne, and even if he lives, an explosion of madness may occur at any time. Two new Queens are said to have supplanted the head Queen in Thebaw's affections and their place secured. Constant intrigues are reported. The King sold seven new monopolies last December.

Altogether the outlook is gloomy in the extreme. The Indian Press is already beginning to hint at the necessity of an early interference on our part, and some papers recommend the annexation of Upper Burmah. Without going this length, there is only too good a ground for believing that we may soon find ourselves called upon to put an end to the misrule which must prevail so long as this young savage sits on the throne or to the anarchy which will most surely follow his death. There are few English residents at Mandalay, but a considerable number of foreigners, chiefly Italians and French. Their presence lends another element to possible complications. Every man at Mandalay carries his life in his hand. Should a massacre of the European take place, and it may take place any day—we may have to protect or avenge the subjects of foreign European Powers; for, of course, we could never permit any interference by their own Government.

The Indian Government is about to establish a Chief Court for British Burmah. The Tribunal will, it is said, consist of two civilian and one barrister Judge. The Rangoon merchants asked for two barristers and one civilian—an arrangement which would have been better suited to the province, where a large proportion of the cases are of a commercial nature and such as could best be tried by trained lawyers. The influence of the civil service, however, was strong enough to override the wishes and interests of the non-official community.

THE WHIGS AND THE NORTH RIDING.

Lord Grey and Lord Zetland, and the small handful of Whig landlords who are doing all in their power to secure the return of a Conservative and a Protectionist in the North Riding of Yorkshire, because they are so passionately desirous to deliver a severe blow to Mr. Gladstone's Government, are, the *Spectator* says, foolish enough to read backwards Lord Derby's striking warning to those who would keep democracy moderate by assuming the lead of its tendencies:—

No one ever uttered a wiser or weightier political aphorism than Lord Derby, in his address to the Liverpool Reform Club a fortnight ago, when he told them that in his

STATE OF IRELAND.

ARCHBISHOP MACCABE ON SECRET SOCIETIES.

In the chapels of the diocese of Dublin, a pastoral letter was read on Sunday from Archibishop MacCabe, in the concluding paragraph of which he says: Our afflicted people stand in great need of grace from God and wise counsel from those in whom they trust. Centuries of wrongs have done much to crush their energies and almost to extinguish their last ray of hope, and, in the condition of almost reckless desperation to which bad laws reduced them, they were—and it is hard to wonder at it—prepared to grasp at any remedy which promised even an alleviation of their woes. The secret conspirator was never slow to avail himself of opportunity to mislead the illegal societies which worked out their mission, by sending his dupes to lifelong slavery or death itself. But before the dissolution of these societies the hidden and unscrupulous leaders gathered the spoils of their iniquity by trafficking in the blood of their deluded victims. The monster has again raised his head amongst us, and the voice of warning must come from the faithful guardians of the fold, if that fold is to be saved from further ravages. Much has been already done to redress the long-standing wrongs of our people. Time and the power of honest public opinion will gradually but surely destroy the last vestige of unjust laws. Meanwhile, we must pray earnestly to God that our people may not listen to the open or secret abettors of violence or injustice, or to the counsellors of extravagant expectations; but that, being wise with sobriety, they may earn from the Almighty Lord of Justice the protection of His Divine Providence by which our dear country may once more become the joyful abode of countless happy and contented children.

The Archbishop of Cashel (Dr. Croker) having paid a private visit on Sunday to the Rev. Dr. Power, Bishop of Waterford, three local bands, accompanied by a large crowd, proceeded to the bishop's residence, adjoining St. John's College, and gave him a reception. His Grace addressed the crowd at some length, observing that the country had made great progress during the past thirty years, and would make more during the next twenty than during the past hundred years. Rack rents have been cut down so that the entire rental of Ireland would probably be reduced one-fourth, or, say, five millions yearly, a sum which would go into the pockets of tenant-farmers. He had retired from political life in 1848, but he observed this movement which Saturday's papers said he had baptised was different from his own. He protested against emigration, which was greater from Ireland than from any other country.

At the Claremorris Quarter Sessions, held on Saturday, before Mr. J. T. Richards, County Court Judge, upwards of 500 degrees for possession and recovery of rents were granted against tenants in the district. Mr. Nolan Farrell was plaintiff in about 200 cases, and received offers made by the tenants. In almost every case the tenants have served originating notices for judicial rent.

At a special meeting of the newly-formed Irish Land League at Birmingham, held on Sunday night, at the Catholic Schools, Bartholomew-street, under the presidency of Mr. J. F. Cassidy, subscriptions were raised towards the national fund for the support of the Irish political prisoners. The chairman stated that the receipts were increasing, and that the people of Ulster and elsewhere were beginning to find that Messrs. Parnell and Dillon were the greatest friends the Irish had ever had. (Cheers.) He moved, "That we tender our hearty thanks to the minority of six in the Birmingham Town Council who voted in favour of granting the use of the Town Hall to Miss Parnell, and, at the same time, we heartily condole with the majority, we heartily condole with the majority in the miserable miseries that they are forced to undergo." He then showed the degree of the "Caucasus King," he would relegate them to the obscurity from which he originally drew them. We further protest against the assertion of the Mayor in his letter that the leaders of the Land League have encouraged secret vengeance—an allegation for which there is not a shade or shadow of proof." The resolution was seconded by Mr. Hooban, who said the present Government was the offspring of the Birmingham caucus. On the motion of the chairman, seconded by Mr. W. Kelly (Vice-President), it was unanimously resolved: "That we tender our heartfelt thanks to his Excellency the French Ambassador for his noble and truly liberal protest to the English Government against evictions and other resources of civilisation peculiar to the British Government now in operation in Ireland."

POLITICAL SPEECHES.

A building was opened on Burton on Saturday which Mr. M. T. Bass, M.P., has erected,

Galignani's Messenger.

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THE ANGLO-FRENCH CONTROL OF EGYPT.

We feel that there are few indeed who are not now prepared to recognize the force and justice of the criticisms we originally passed upon the policy that ended in the establishment of the Anglo-French Control in Egypt. We questioned the expediency of the measures adopted and the urgency of the motives avowed. The deposition of Ismail Pacha, the elevation of Tewfik to the sovereignty, and the appeal to the shadowy authority of the Sultan, were dictated, not so much by alarm at the adventures of the Egyptian Government in Equatorial Africa, or by sympathy for the sufferings of the oppressed felahs, as by financial interests brought into peril by the late Khedive's extravagance and dishonesty. It appeared to us that the true political interests of England in Egypt would have been better secured by an independent course. Nor have we looked with more satisfaction, as our readers are aware, on some of the more recent developments of the policy of the Anglo-French intervention. But we have to do with a state of things founded upon the intervention and inseparable from it. The Control was established by England and France with the assent of all the other European Powers. Not only was no protest made at the time by Germany—whence the National party in Egypt are now expecting vaguely to obtain sympathy and, perhaps, succour—but the initiative on which the two Western Powers acted was supplied by Prince Bismarck. In fact, if not in form, England and France acted in Egypt as the delegates of the European concert, and, having accepted that mission and undertaken serious responsibilities in consequence, they cannot surrender their rights or give way to anarchical disturbances and unworthy intrigues. The European Powers have acquiesced in what has been accomplished in Egypt by the Anglo-French Control, and it must be admitted, even by those who censured the policy in which that system originated, that a large measure of practical success has been achieved.

The finances of Egypt have been once more put upon a basis of solvency and regularity, while at the same time the burdens upon the peasant-cultivators have been immensely lightened. As all the European Governments were substantially responsible for the establishment of the Control, so, too, both parties in this country have had their share in upholding it. The question, therefore, is one which it ought to be possible to discuss, both at home and abroad, in a spirit of sobriety and with complete freedom from bias. It is true, indeed, that while insisting on the necessity for firmness in our Egyptian policy we must acknowledge that the claims of the National party in Egypt, so far as they are not factitious, deserve much sympathy. One of the principal objections to the Anglo-French intervention was that it shattered whatever native elements of strength existed in Egypt. Ismail Pacha was a bad ruler, but his successor has scarcely been from the beginning a ruler at all. Sir William Gregory has lately pleaded the cause of the Egyptian National party and their leader, Arabi Bey, with much literary power and dialectical skill, and we are by no means disposed to reject his conclusions, regarded in the abstract. If it were possible to go back to the situation with which we had to deal in Egypt before Ismail Pacha's Government broke down hopelessly, there would be much difficulty in temporarily rejecting the pretensions of the National party. It is probable that if the trial had been made the elements of a vigorous and healthy self-government would have been found altogether wanting. But, at any rate, the experiment was not tried, and the Anglo-French Control, which has bestowed upon Egypt great practical benefits, cannot be set aside in favour of the problematical advantages to be evolved out of the chaos that would now be produced by giving the rein rashly to ungoverned and, perhaps, unreal national aspirations. If the nascent spirit of nationality in Egypt had taken root in a strong and settled native Government, we might regard the movement at present agitating Egypt with more sanguine hopes. But, supposing the Anglo-French Control to be overthrown, what is to follow? What promise of stability is there in the Khedive's Government if left to its own devices? What vitality is there in the Council of Notables? Where is the National party, outside the army? Is there, in truth, an Egypt which is capable of political representation and of healthy progress under a system of self-government? These are questions to which we find no satisfactory answers in Sir William Gregory's pleading. It appears to us that the Council of Notables—with good intentions, doubtless, are actuated by feelings which, even when unreasonable, are natural enough—possess no representative character and no tangible relation to the toiling Egyptian masses. The populace of the towns, vehement in tumultuous protest against foreign influence, has still less title to be called national. The Khedive and his Ministers are hardly the men to stand alone. There is on the one really important factor in the political situation, and that is the army. No doubt Arabi Bey and his fellow-soldiers would be bold

enough, without other backing, to try the experiment of an independent Egypt ruled by the Mamelukes itself, with the force of military oligarchy. But such a dominion would not be national in any true sense; it would be undermined by its inherent vices, and it would not be able to cope with the jealousies and ambitions to which it would be exposed. It is proper to pay every attention to the representations of the Nobles and to bear in mind that the aims of the National party, though they may be impracticable, are worthy of respect. We have no doubt that the English and French Governments will do all that may be possible to remove any cause of complaint and to promote the gradual and steady development of a state of things in which it may be practicable to hand over to the people of Egypt a large part of the control now administered by Europeans. But to this end the co-operation of the Egyptians themselves is needed. Nothing can more seriously impede progress in the direction of Egyptian self-government than the recurrence of panics and tumults, appeals to violence and fanaticism, the menace of military force, and the reliance upon the secret working of international animosities and grudges. These disturbing movements tend only to anarchy, and into anarchy this country cannot, in any circumstances whatever, allow Egypt to fall. —*Times*.

FRENCH SPECULATION IN ITALIAN NEWSPAPERS.

The many and serious questions which have been agitating Italian political circles of late have sunk into insignificance in comparison with the strange news that six of the leading Italian Newspapers have been purchased *en bloc* by France. The wildest speculations are, of course, indulged in as to the nature and objects of the transaction, but it seems to be admitted on all hands that the *Diritto*, the *Fanfula*, the *Liberta*, the *Bersaglire*, and the *Italia* of Rome, together with the *Pugnolo* of Milan, have been transferred to the Banque Romaine of Paris, by a well-known banker and newspaper agent and proprietor for the sum of two million eight hundred thousand francs, or one hundred and twelve thousand pounds sterling. The account of the affair which gains most general credence is that about a week ago it was telegraphed to Paris that agents of M. Gambetta were in Rome negotiating for the purchase of one or more newspapers, to be employed in countering the feeling of distrust against France which has been recently growing up in Italy. The communication added that a condition of the sale was to be that the newspapers thus bought should for the future support the views and policy of the purchasers. Signor Obligato, the banker and Newspaper proprietor above referred to, at once wrote to the Roman evening Journals disclaiming any desire to control the policy of the Press, and explained the affair by saying that he had simply converted his own large Newspaper agency into a limited liability Company, with a capital of three million francs, divided into five hundred franc shares. This apology for the *coup d'Etat* beforehand, but it is still more so when it is certain that the Minister who talks of it would not have the power to carry it out. The point pressed on M. Gambetta was:—Supposing the National Assembly to disregard the vote of the two Chambers defining the questions upon which it is to deliberate, how can this be prevented? M. Gambetta answered that such action on the part of the Congress would be illegal and that the President of the Republic would consider how to deal with it. There does not seem to be anything in the Constitution to bear out M. Gambetta's view; and unless he could give M. Grévy chapter and verse for what he asked him to do, we may be sure that M. Grévy would refuse. The President has bided his time very patiently, even when it seemed almost hopeless that it would ever come; but he would then have the finest opportunity that he could desire. M. Gambetta would have proposed to a Constitutional Chief of the State to disperse a National Assembly embracing all the members of both Chambers convoked to revise the Constitution: could there be a more odious sight in which to present an Advanced Republican and Clerical party, who, it is to be presumed, will coalesce on this occasion only, in view of the vast advantages which France will derive from the purchase of Italian newspapers. It further warns its fellow patriots that they may wake up some morning to find a Hannibal not only at the gates, but in the house. The journals which are said to have been guilty of the twofold error of uttering a threat which he could not carry out if he wished, and which he could not even hint at without giving the gravest and most lasting cause of offence to the majority of the Deputies. His prospects, consequently, seem to be very much worse than they were down to Saturday. He has given the Chamber real cause to doubt his fitness for office. Each of his dealings with this question of revision has been more imprudent than the last. He has proposed unnecessary changes in the Constitution by way of excuse for foisting *scrutine de liste* into the organic laws; he has made his continuance in office dependent on his success in bullying the Chamber of Deputies into accepting the Government proposal; and now, when he sees that the National Assembly may slip through his fingers, he intimates that if it goes beyond the line marked for it will be dealt with as a revolutionary body. So strange a series of imprudences, and worse than improprieties, has seldom been seen. —*St. James's Gazette*.

opposite opinions, it is only reasonable to suppose that they will cease to take it in. It is difficult, therefore, to see what end can be served by the purchase, though the ways of political understrappers are always dubious, even when they are not further complicated by the mysteries of the great Bull and Bear fight of the Bourse. One thing is certain, and that is that the Italian mind is much exercised about the affair, and that there seems no disposition whatever on the part of Italian journalists to bicker their freedom of thought and speech either at the bidding of speculators or foreign politicians. We hope that it would be, in any case, impossible to purchase an Italian newspaper in the interests of foreign politicians; but however that may be, the enterprising French Company who have bought up the six leading Italian papers have clearly not gone the right way to work to secure that object.—*Standard*.

M. GAMBETTA'S ABERRATIONS.

The position of affairs in France has at present a more than common interest for Englishmen. At no time since the Crimean war has English policy been so interwoven with French policy as it is now. We are carrying out a joint protectorate and negotiating a commercial treaty. More than this, we have so managed matters that the smooth working of these arrangements seems to depend on the continuance in power of a particular Minister. We have not only put our eggs in one basket as regards Europe—France being at this moment the only Power whom, except by courtesy, we can call friendly—but we have put them all in one basket as regards France herself. The friendship of France, such as it is, seems to be identified with M. Gambetta. If he remains Prime Minister we shall retain it; if he is beaten, among the first fruits of his defeat will probably be the adoption of a protectionist policy in fiscal matters, and possibly of a more irritating if not a more active policy in Egyptian matters. Englishmen, therefore, cannot but watch with something like personal concern the method in which M. Gambetta carries on his struggle with the Chamber of Deputies. What meets their eyes, at all events, is not reassuring as to M. Gambetta's chances. In his interview with the Committee of Thirty-three on Saturday he seems to have gone out of his way to irritate the Extreme Left, and in doing this to have taken a line which was equally well calculated to offend Moderate Republicans. The only sections of opinion who could have been genuinely pleased by his remarks are the Bonapartists and the Legitimists: the Bonapartists because the Prime Minister showed himself not indisposed to what may at the least be colourably described as a *coup d'Etat*; the Legitimists because M. Gambetta does but exemplify their favourite thesis that a French Republic must always end in Cesarism. In saying what he did M. Gambetta was doubly ill-advised. It is always a mistake to talk of things which have been recently growing up in Italy. The communication added that a condition of the sale was to be that the newspapers thus bought should for the future support the views and policy of the purchasers. Signor Obligato, the banker and Newspaper proprietor above referred to, at once wrote to the Roman evening Journals disclaiming any desire to control the policy of the Press, and explained the affair by saying that he had simply converted his own large Newspaper agency into a limited liability Company, with a capital of three million francs, divided into five hundred franc shares. This apology for the *coup d'Etat* beforehand, but it is still more so when it is certain that the Minister who talks of it would not have the power to carry it out. The point pressed on M. Gambetta was:—Supposing the National Assembly to disregard the vote of the two Chambers defining the questions upon which it is to deliberate, how can this be prevented? M. 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occupied by 200 insurgents. Three more companies, from Jelko and Borja, succeeded in clearing Vrana. News from Kalinovici states that an encounter took place on the 18th between Ulrok and Novesine. A Jaeger battalion on the 18th reconnoitred the district round Ulrok, and found a line of sentinels extending for 3,000 paces. After an hour's conflict the battalion returned to Novesine. Travellers arriving from South Dalmatia reported that the gendarmerie garrison in Stolac was set fire to. Nine persons perished in the flames. The same day several persons quarrelled with the landlord of a tavern and killed him, although his wife offered them 4,000 florins to spare his life.

The Croscian insurgents are circulating all over the country a revolutionary proclamation. It is written in Servian, with cyrillic letters. The contents are of such a character that they cannot be reproduced in detail.

The Lloyd Company has received orders to have ships ready to transport two infantry regiments and four Jaeger battalions. The reserves of several regiments in Prague, Tomasov, Znaim, and Vienna, have received orders to march south. The English squadron in the Mediterranean is concentrating at Malta.

We learn from Ragusa that, last Thursday, Prince Nicholas of Montenegro received a Herzegovinian delegation in Danjlowgrad asking for support from Montenegro. The Austro-Hungarian Minister-resident was present. The Prince answered that they must not calculate upon his support, and ordered them to return home immediately, otherwise he would intern them all. In Podgoritz fifteen Albanians and seven Bulgarians, a party and some of their number, were sent to Tomasov to be investigated by the Pancalivian committee in Sophia. In four Communes of the Petrovac district recruits from Christian families have been enlisted without difficulty. They promised to serve the Emperor faithfully, and hoped that the agrarian question would soon be satisfactorily settled. The Mohammedans announced their intention of emigrating; but they will probably do nothing of the kind. They declare that conscience forbids them to serve any other than the Sultan. News reaches us that the Sultan is giving land to the Bosnian emigrants.

THE EGYPTIAN DIFFICULTY.

The Standard correspondent at Cairo telegraphed on Monday night:—

Though I cannot say that the situation has as yet materially improved, it seems to me that there are various indications pointing in the direction of a most difficult settlement of the main point in dispute. The British have the opportunity of discussing with many influential men here, of all shades of opinion, the various aspects of the crisis, and they concur in thinking that unless something very unexpected occurs a compromise ought to be, and will be, effected. One fact is certain—that Cherif Pacha is anxious to arrange a compromise with the Chamber of Deputies with reference to the demand to vote the Budget. The proposal of Cherif is to the effect that the Chamber shall nominate a number of Deputies corresponding in number to the members of the Government and the Controllers General, and that they shall participate in fixing the Budget items. Whether this partial proposal will be accepted or not is at present uncertain. What seems to me more important is that the general political tone has been considerably lower in the last forty-eight hours, and that many influential men are no longer present. In a state of things where a single rash act or foolish speech might provoke not only a *émeute* but a revolution, it would be unwise to assume a too confident tone. Nor is it easy to explain in so many words in what particular respects the situation may be said to have improved. But my impression distinctly is that, in the absence of the unexpected, the worst of the crisis is over, and that what remains to be dealt with ought not to be beyond the reach of a clever and conciliatory diplomatist.

COURT AND FASHIONABLE NEWS.

OSBORNE, MONDAY.

The Queen went out this morning with Princess Beatrice. The Hon. and Rev. Francis Byng had the honour of dining with her Majesty yesterday.

The Prince of Wales and a distinguished party arrived on Monday afternoon at Brantingham Thorpe, the seat of Mr. Sykes, M.P., for a week's shooting and hunting. Amongst the party invited to meet the Prince are the Marquess of Cambridge and Londesborough, the Marquess of Albermarle, the Earl of Aylesford, Lord Ormathwaite, Lord Herries, and Sir G. O. Wombwell.

The Duke of Edinburgh, who arrived at Kirkwall on Sunday night, landed on Monday morning for the purpose of inspecting the coastguard and receiving the freedom of the burgh. The streets of the town were crowded. His Royal Highness received a most hearty welcome. After inspecting the coastguard his Royal Highness was driven to the County Buildings, where the freedom of the burgh was conferred by Provost Reid, who, in the course of his speech, referred to the former visit made by the Prince Consort 18 years ago. The illustrious freeman briefly replied, thanking the Provost and magistrates for the cordial welcome. The Queen, who was given a hearty welcome by the Duke of Edinburgh by those present, the hall being crowded.

The Duke of Westminster left Grosvenor House on Monday for Estaston Hall.

The Earl and Countess of Rosslyn have arrived in Carlton-gardens from Easton Lodge, Dunmow, for the season.

Sir Watkin Wynn contradicts the report to the effect that he did not intend to notify the days on which his hounds would meet during the stay of the Empress of Austria at Combermere Abbey.

The combined Leicestershire Hunt Ball is to take place at the County Assembly Rooms at Leicester on February 9, under the patronage of the Duke of Rutland, Earl Ferrers, and the masters of the other five packs hunting within the county, viz., the Atherstone, Belvoir, Cottesmore, Pitsford, and Quorn.

The gathering is expected to be most brilliant, as upwards of 80 of the principal hunting men have consented to act as stewards.

The King of Italy has conferred the order of Commander of the Royal Order of the Crown of Italy upon Mr. R. Richardson-Gardner. The Milan *Perseveranza*, in announcing this, says:—“His Majesty the King, on the proposal of the Minister for Foreign Affairs (Signor Mancini), has conferred the title of Commander of the Crown of Italy on Mr. Richardson-Gardner, member of the English Parliament. This distinction has been conferred upon him as a token of gratitude for the interest and care taken by him in behalf of the members of the Milan Blind Institution during the visit that those unfortunate creatures paid to London.”

THE RISING IN DALMATIA.

The Vienna correspondent of the Daily News telegraphed on Monday night:—

The fact is becoming obvious that Austria will not merely have to battle against single bands of insurgents, but that the insurrection is well organized and directed from central point. Count Tisza has sent a circular to all the provincial capitals, calling upon the people to publish no more details upon the movements of the troops in Dalmatia and the occupied provinces, as the publication of these details might render the military dispositions of no avail.

On the 20th large bands of insurgents appeared in the Dalmatia, 150 insurgents forced the gendarmerie of Glavaticovo to withdraw to Konjica. More insurgents are advancing towards Konjica. 1,000 insurgents have assembled above Kameno, near Vratlo. The general commanding in Serajevo reports that 500 insurgents armed with Saider rifles, and several hundred armed with Sardar hatchets, have assembled in the Zagore, commanded by Sardar Turzic. Other bands are terrorising the surrounding districts. On the 17th the gendarmerie of Konjica were attacked by 150 insurgents. Three companies sent to their aid from Fotscha, found Vratlo

Coast, having been appointed Assistant Colonial Secretary to the Governor.

The annual income of the London charities is shown by Mr. Howe's "Classified Directory" to have fallen during the last three years to nearly £81,000. The total however still reaches the enormous sum of £4,121,546, to which, as Mr. Howe observes, there are to be added the incomes of numerous institutions which do not make returns and the amount distributed in relief by church and chapel congregations. Over

and above this the Earl of Shaftesbury has estimated that the amount received by fraudulent charities reaches at least a quarter of a million sterling annually. This latter fact is the more deplorable since the recent diminution in the income of bona fide charities seems to have fallen heavily upon some excellent institutions. The classes most affected have been arrested, the medical charities, the general and charitable charities, the charities for orphans and those reformation and protection—these institutions being mainly others dependent on voluntary contributions.

The Karaites—the Jewish sect which re-

names the Talmud and other Jewish legends—having come into prominence in connection with the Jewish outrages in Russia, some information as to their numbers may be interesting. Dr. Adler, the Chief Rabbi, states that there are not more than three thousand of them in Russia. We learn on the authority of a recent traveller who is well acquainted with the Karaites, that they number at least ten thousand persons. It has been said that they are to be found only in Moscow. Many, however, reside at Moscow, although it appears that they are not to be met with at St. Petersburg.

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LONDON, JANUARY 24-25, 1882.

ABSOLUTISM IN PRUSSIA.

If any doubt ever existed regarding the meaning of the now famous Imperial Rescript, it must have been dispelled by the speech of Prince Bismarck in the German Parliament on Tuesday. The statement is not the less striking because it is dramatically characteristic of the man who makes it. The German Chancellor scorns any attempt at apology for the document which three weeks ago sent a shock of surprise not only throughout the Fatherland but throughout Europe. He vindicates its terms; he justifies its opportuneness; he even exults in its necessity. He begs the Deputies to dismiss from their minds any theoretical ideas regarding the nature of the German Imperial Constitution, or of the place which the Chancellor holds in it. The Chancellor is the nominee of the Emperor; he was present in the Reichstag on Tuesday simply as the Royal Prussian Representative, or, as he styled himself, the Plenipotentiary of his Royal master. Having thus defined his own position, Prince Bismarck proceeded to explain the object of the Rescript. It created no new law; it only prevented the old one from being forgotten. The Constitution gave no countenance to the maxim which of late had begun to grow up, to the effect that "The King reigns but does not govern." That might be the state of the case in England and other limited Monarchies, under a system of responsible Ministers virtually the creatures of Parliamentary majorities, by whose vote they came into or went out of office. In Prussia—and by Prussia Prince Bismarck evidently meant Germany—this custom has never prevailed, and so long as the Emperor reigns never will prevail. "I can only assume," he remarked, "that those learned persons who speak of the Constitutional supremacy of the House are afflicted with an obscure vision." This obscurity, he went on to point out, consists in imagining that English liberty and Prussian Absolutism are one and the same thing. The Rescript is absolutely legal. The King's will is expressed in it, and he, as the countersigner of it, is responsible for anything to which it has given expression. "I am responsible for all the acts of the Sovereign, whether I countersign them or not. The signature of the King is always the chief thing." In brief, the country is governed by the King and the two Houses of the Legislature, and the Minister is the scapegoat. That the King commands and the Minister obeys has always been a tradition in Prussia, and the legend still possesses sufficient vitality to enable the Chancellor to affirm on Tuesday that though Ministers have to make numerous concessions, the real President of the Cabinet is the King himself. There can be no mistake about the meaning of these words. They have the true Bismarckian ring, and, unpalatable though they may be to German Liberals, they are the literal expression of a plain historical truth. When Prussia first received a Constitution in 1818, the King possessed absolute power. That is not surprising seeing that Absolutism was then the rule throughout Europe. Even England more than once in the previous century witnessed the spectacle of the King dismissing his advisers simply because they chose to hold opinions contrary to his own. In our day, when the Sovereign loyally accepts any Minister whom, in the opinion of the First Lord of the Treasury, it is essential for the welfare of the kingdom to have in office, it is difficult to conceive of George IV. objecting to Canning, because, "as a gentleman," he had vowed that this statesman should never be taken into the Cabinet. Yet, constitutionally, his Majesty had a perfect right to do so. Ministers in England, however, being absolutely dependent on a Parliamentary majority, the Sovereign has long ago ceased to exercise any choice not compatible with the will of the people. In Prussia this has never been the case. The King selects whom he wills, and Parliament may or may not, as seems best in its eyes, endorse the selection. Its only check is its tenure of the purse strings. But even this control, as Prince Bismarck has occasionally demonstrated, is more nominal than real. In Prussia, and more or less in all the German States, the Monarch is a weighty personality. Indeed, in 1848, very little support was given to the idea which has since grown up and partially obscured the letter of the Constitution—the idea that the King reigns but does not govern—and the theory of Government by majority was far from being generally entertained. This indisputable fact Prince Bismarck begs his hearers to call to memory. Whether such a system would work in the Prussia of to-day may be doubted. But, all events, the two Kings who have sat on the Throne since the Constitution was granted have made every concession to preserve the country from drifting in that direction. The Chancellor goes further when he declares that had he pursued a Parliamentary policy in 1848 the country would have "experienced a second Olmütz," and, he adds significantly, "all of you gentlemen, perhaps, would not have been here today." Possibly not. To its Parliament Prussia owes little; to its Chancellor it owes a great deal. But a Parliament that has only the power to

hamper and annoy can never be an instrument for much good, and politicians who know that they will never be called on to carry out in office the principles they professed when out of it, are not likely to be wise in council or temperate in speech. The accuracy of Prince Bismarck's interpretation of the Rescript was not challenged. Herr von Bennington, the Leader of the National Liberals, was compelled to admit that it was "indisputably Constitutional" and the criticisms of Herr Stauffenberg and Richter seem to have been devoted, not so much to a consideration of its illegality as to its effects on the present situation. This is, however, a question which concerns Prince Bismarck more than his opponents. He may have been acting strictly within the limits of the Constitution; but it would have been discreet to have roused public opinion at a moment more opportune than the present, and in a manner less irritating. Public functionaries who are favourable to the existing state of affairs are not likely to play false to their Sovereign at the polls, while those who may be less friendly will, if human nature is the same in Germany as in lands further west, be inclined to avail themselves of the ballot to further the purposes of a Minister who has so bluntly ordered them to attend to what he considers their duty. Its effect on the nation at large will be even more prejudicial. Liberty, as we understand it, has never been quite grasped in Germany. Then it is true, to use the words of Professor Freitzschke, the Sovi—"has always borne responsibility before God and man"—thus making a marked distinction between moral and legal responsibility—and his claims have to a certain extent been allowed by the nation. But until the issue of this Rescript the people were beginning to recognise Divine Right and Personal Government as merely shadowy attributes kept in stock, though never intended to be actually used. They now know differently, and the remainder has wounded their *amour propre*. Even the Professors of the University have addressed their students on the great question of the day, and the opinion seems to be that unless Prince Bismarck wishes to force on a desperate Constitutional struggle, with the object of abolishing the present Imperial Parliament altogether, his conduct appears to be extremely unwise. It is hardly likely that he harbours such an intention, though it is no secret that his antipathy to the Reichstag, as at present constituted, is so decided that he would be rejoiced to see it replaced by a body more obedient to his will. But the effect of the Rescript on the other Constituent States of the Empire has been more unfavourable than on Prussia itself. In that Kingdom its principles very fairly reflect the practice of civil servants during elections. In the majority of the German States, however, its maxims are in conflict with express prescriptions of the law, and, as the *Cologne Gazette* points out, with long Constitutional usage. The end is still hard to anticipate. But it is difficult to believe that the Chancellor's latest act, as interpreted by himself on Tuesday, will increase the Conservative minority, or discourage the enemies of order and good government in their evil aspirations.—*Standard.*

THE TROUBLES IN BASUTOLAND.

The Capetown correspondent of the Standard telegraphed on Tuesday:—

Basutoland still continues in a very unsettled state. Many of the Chiefs have, however, unwillingly accepted the award, and others, at whose head is Masupha, refuse to do so. Mr. Orpen has just made a vigorous effort to capture the rebel Chief. The two brothers named in the Rescript endeavoured to persuade the Basotho to lay down their arms and submit to the award, and at last, finding that he refused to recognise the authority of Letseha, they agreed to use force to compel him to submit. Ten thousand horsemen accordingly collected at Maseru under their orders, and Mr. Orpen placing himself at their head, they made straight for Thaba Bosigo, his great mountain stronghold. This was seized without any resistance being offered, but it was found that Masupha was absent with the greater portion of his men. Two of Letseha's sons, who are married to Masupha's daughters, have refused to proceed further in the matter, alleging that they had only agreed to a show of force, and so drew off with their followers. This left Mr. Orpen with only a third of his original force, and even this, as was evident by the demolition of a bridge over the Tati, where he was, will be relied upon. Letseha, willing to stand by Mr. Orpen to the end, but the latter saw that under the changed condition a serious reverse might ensue should fighting commence, and a defeat would probably lead to a general Basuto rising. He, therefore, fell back with the Basutoland in general in favour of peace, but the influence of the so-called National Party, led by Masupha, is great, and the future of events must be considered as very uncertain.

PERSECUTION OF THE JEWS IN RUSSIA.

A memorial from the Jews of England on behalf of their oppressed brethren in Russia was on Friday last handed to Prince Lobanoff, the Russian Ambassador, for transmission to the Emperor of Russia. The Prince, however, acting under instructions from his Government, declined to transmit the memorial. The document was signed and presented in person by Sir Nathaniel M. de Rothschild, M.P., as chairman of a committee that has been specially appointed by the representatives of the Jewish community in this country to deal with the Russo-Jewish question. The committee consists of the following members:—Sir N. M. de Rothschild, M.P., Baron Henry de Worms, M.P., Mr. Sejerian Simon, M.P., Mr. Arthur Cohen, Q.C., M.P., Sir Julian Goldsmith, Baron George de Worms, Hon. Samuel Rev. Dr. H. Herford, A. J. Green, Rev. A. Lowy, Dr. A. Asher, Messrs. Benjamin L. Cohen, Lionel L. Cohen, Lewis Emanuel, E. H. Franklin, Alfr. Goldsmith, Henry Harris, Alfred G. Henriquez, Nathan S. Joseph, Fred. D. Mocatta, Samuel Montagu, Morris S. Oppenheim, Isaac Schlesinger, Leopold Schloss, and Joseph Sebag. The following is the full text of the memorial:—

"To His Imperial Majesty Alexander III., Emperor of All the Russias.

"The humble memorial of the Jews of England on behalf of the Jews of Russia.—"May it please your Imperial Majesty,—"A grievous cry of suffering has reached us from our brethren in faith in many parts of your Majesty's great Empire. For the past nine months large numbers of your Majesty's Jewish subjects, especially those residing in the southern provinces of your Majesty's dominions, have been the victims of serious civil outbreaks. The security of life and property, so many years enjoyed by them, has vanished. Murder, rapine, and pillage have taken its place. The most terrible deeds of

violence have been perpetrated on helpless women and children. Unarmed and unheeding men have become a prey to the fury of a brutal mob. The survivors, scarcely more fortunate than the slain, live only to find their homes devastated or burnt, their property wrecked, and their means of subsistence gone. Great indeed, is the horror at these atrocities, but greater still, we feel certain, must be your gracious Majesty's pain and indignation at the sufferings thus inflicted on thousands of your subjects.

"Until last year Jews and Christians throughout your Majesty's empire lived in terms of amity rarely, if ever, disturbed. No act of the Jews has been committed to warrant the interruption of the friendly attitude of their neighbours or the goodwill of their rulers. Your Jewish subjects love and honour your Majesty, and in their homes and synagogues pray for your welfare. They respect the laws and pay the State its just dues. They serve your Majesty in peace and war, even without hope or chance of promotion, and willingly lay down their lives for the country that has given them birth, and that has hitherto protected them. In truth, they are commanded by our sacred books to promote the welfare of the land which shelters them, and of all who, to honour its rulers, and to love, as themselves, the neighbours, though differing in faith; and the Israelites, acting in conformity with the precepts, are innocent of cause for the press that has befallen them.

"We have reason to believe that in most cases it has not been the honest, law-abiding

neighbours of the Jews (Conservative) who, which stand at the railway station to receive visitors, the blues were decidedly more numerous and better equipped than the yellow traps, the Conservatives having sent out at least one private carriage and pair with tiger and everything complete. First-class carriages on the North-Eastern train brought up voters provided with tickets at the expense of the respective parties.

"On the road between Northallerton and Middlesbrough, two miles away from Welburn Station, stands on the summit of a hill the purely agricultural village of East Harrow, the polling place of this division of Allertonshire, just off the western border of Cleveland. Lord Harewood and Mr. Beaumont, of Huddersfield, both Conservatives, are the principal proprietors of the soil. Both are fair landlords, several of the tenants of the former in this district holding their farms at little more than half rent. It might be presumed, therefore, that the tenantry here would be inclined to support the cause of the general popularity of the Jews. But we have the cup of affliction of our brethren not yet for the future appears even blacker. As the year goes on the enemies of our brethren seek to palliate the atrocities that have been perpetrated, falsely declaring the Jews to have merited their persecution by their own misconduct, by their odious mode of trading, and by their having over-reached the neighbours; and these enemies endeavour to induce the Government of your Majesty to impose upon all Israelites such new restrictions as to residence, occupation, and education, as will not only prevent their fairly competing with their Christian fellow-subjects, but will practically prevent their becoming useful citizens and servants of the State, and will even debar them from earning their subsistence. We have heard with alarm and grief that commissions have been issued with instructions couched in terms of opprobrium and hostility, teeming with charges, assumed but not true, which would render impossible any result favourable to the Jews. The worst effects are, therefore, apprehended. Even Mr. Orpen, who writes that the Israelites have ever dwelt in good fellowship with their neighbours, and, where, until the lamentable events of last month, they have always enjoyed immunity from outrage of any kind, such commissions have been issued with similar instructions, so that everywhere throughout your Majesty's dominions, the populace seems to imagine that it has the Imperial sanction for its ill-treatment of its brethren, an idea which we are convinced could never have been, however faintly, conceived by the benignant and humane spirit of your Majesty.

"Already, deplorable results have ensued from the terms in which these commissions have been issued. For many of the local authorities, in anticipation of the reports of the commission, have put in force certain ancient laws of domicile, which had fallen into desuetude, and have forcibly driven the Jews, still smarting from the recent calamities, away from the towns and villages in which they had been lawfully permitted to reside, while others, perhaps, a little less inhuman, have allowed them to remain, only on condition of their being put up within the limits of their ancient ghettos.

"With regard to the imputations which have been made upon your Majesty's Jewish subjects, we humbly submit to your Majesty that whatever exceptional social position they may occupy, or whatever failings may be charged to some of them, these are due mainly to the exceptional laws to which they have been so long subjected. If, in some places, undue activity has characterised their conduct in certain trades and occupations, while writing this in the waiting room at Wetherby station, pending the arrival of the Middlesbrough train, I have been for a quarter of an hour performance auditor of a spirited discussion between an intelligent and Liberal railway man on one side of the line, and a solid Conservative gamekeeper on the other. "Who fit against the Mines Regulation Bill and the Factories Act? Who opposed the education of the working classes of this country?" cried the gifted platform orator. Forfeater was shut up; he had, indeed, no chance of opening out on his volatile opponent.

THE BENCHERS AND THE TEMPLE.

The Benchers of the Middle Temple have within the last few days decided on a step which many Londoners will learn with regret. It has been resolved to pull down the block of buildings known as Brick-court, and to erect on their site what may prove to be a more suitable pile. In the course of the last two or three years the builder has been very busy within the Temple precincts. Whole courts have been pulled down, rows of houses whose architecture was simple, solid, and suitable to the purposes of retirement and study, and in place we find structures which are certainly more pretentious and are certainly also more highly rented. The classic green recesses which it so delighted Charles Lamb to wander through no longer remind us of that collegiate aspect which the Temple had to wear. We have got a terra-cotta fountain such as the New-road might supply, some retired tradesman's retreat at Richmond, and we have got grander and buildings more elaborate in their decoration, but suggestive of the architecture of the modern Insurance Office or the still more modern Railway Station Hotel. There is a great deal of that clumsy external ornament which is thought to inspire confidence in shareholders, and to give the hesitating traveller assurance of a well-managed concern. There is plenty of taste also, perhaps, rather too much of it. The abundance of taste cannot be denied, and the only question to be asked is whether it is good taste.

It is not, however, for its architectural qualities that Brick-court can advance a claim to public recognition. No elevation in the Temple can be regarded as more simple or more unpretentious. But among its few houses one is very memorable in literary history. As you descend Middle Temple-court from Fleet-street, just off the right-hand side, you will see a small chamber in Essex-court, containing the chambers in which Oliver Cromwell lived and died. That same

house must have been known to many men of letters whose names are now famous and, if we may judge of the friends of a man from the man himself, to many a poor struggling scribbler and literary hack, whom the kind-hearted poet befriended, and to whom he lent the money he had himself borrowed. Reynolds and Johnson and Burke must often have paused at that doorway, and it was round it that strange concourse of mourners, which Mr. Forster has described and Mr. Ward has painted, assembled on the morning when Goldsmith's death was first known as a public event. The ill news travelled fast to the public studio in Fleet-street, and, as the sun was rising, when he heard of his friend's death, he turned to his palette and, as he droned to his palette that day, he was drawn to see how the Temple has been bound up with the lives of so many of the noted men of that generation, and it is strange, too, how nearly all the houses thus rendered famous have one by one disappeared. This house of poor Goldsmith is almost the last of them. Johnson himself lived at No. 1, Inner Temple-lane where a new row of houses now bears his name. At the bottom of the lane, opposite the church porch, Boswell took up his residence, to be near his idol. The site is occupied by a very different structure. Not far off, in fact just within the gate, Burke had his chambers up two pair of stairs, and in that same row, of houses, half a century later, Charles Lamb found a resting-place for himself, his sister, and many of his friends. One by one the old houses have been pulled down and the new ones built up. The names of these great authors haunt the Temple, but their local habitation are no longer to be found. In some cases the rough-holes had to be widened and important sites to be occupied; in others the architect pronounced the buildings dangerous, and they were taken down lest they should fall.

"Signed on behalf of the Jews of England, this 19th day of January, N. M. de Rothschild."

A POLLING DAY IN YORKSHIRE.

A correspondent of the *Daily News* writes from Middlesbrough on Tuesday says:—A more cheery day than this for a drive through the North Yorkshire dales and a run on the North Eastern Railway could not be expected at the present season of the year. Winter mists, rising at early morning, the hills and moors, and great breadth of pasture, rolled gently away before the beams of the rising sun. As the day advanced the atmosphere became clear and bracing, and the sunlit air glamed with all the brightness of a May day. The people of rural Yorkshire are early risers, and long before that harbinger

"of morn known as "the first grey streak of dawn" appeared above the horizon the echoes were awakened in the long wide street with the rolling of carriages and the chink of their drivers on their way to bring voters from outlying villages—such say, as Romany, Brompton, Stanhope, and Watson. At the polling-house at nine o'clock stood gentlemanly agents, representing either side, backed up by assistants and by the blue-coated representative of law and order. Mr. Eliot, the borough member, booted and spurred, and rigged for a ride across country if need arose, was there too, looking after the interests of the Conservative candidate. "Now, tell me what they ought to do," says Farmer Fielder after voting. "This ballot is a good thing. The next thing they ought to do, they ought to do away with canvassing altogether, and let every one vote as he likes." "Good morning, John," says the agent to Forty-shilling Freeholder. "How are you?" "Very well," replies John, "but this t' road's not a good road." And the vehicle, drawn by a team of yellow horses, went on its way. The Englishman is sometimes surprised to find voters showing to his countrymen abroad what they ought not have done at home. In Dublin there is no tablet to distinguish the house in Merrion-square which Daniel O'Connell occupied for so many years, but in Genoa the hotel in which he died has a monument in relief over the door and an inscription under it setting forth his exploits. In Florence, just past the Academy, the house where Mrs. Browning occupied is similarly distinguished. In the case of the Temple there is no excuse of either want of want of the Temple or the want of the Temple.

"There is probably not a Temple porter, not a barrister's clerk, not half-a-dozen barristers

perhaps in the Temple, who could show a stranger the house where Goldsmith lived and died. The town of Frankfurt acquired and possessed, and protects the house where Goethe's father lived, and where the poet was born. But then the Germans are a people addicted to literature. But what is found in Germany is found in other countries also. There is scarcely a city in Italy where the votive tablet on the house-front does not provoke for the stranger a fresh interest in a familiar name. The statue, the bust, the plaque meet you at almost every turn. The Englishman is sometimes surprised to find voters showing to his countrymen abroad what they ought not have done at home.

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Mr. Chamberlain, Sir C. Dilke, and Mr. Fawcett will be placed in a little difficulty

when the vote for the Duke of Albany comes on. It is their intention, I believe, to walk out of the House; and Mr. Gladstone has assured them that they will be forgiven if they absent themselves from the discussion. Whether their Radical supporters will be satisfied with this way of evading an expression of opinion on the subject of Royal grants is another question.

Business will soon come to a dead-lock in the country districts of England. Magistrates are out every day by day, and in many places it is found impossible to make up a bench, owing to the number of absences.

It is refreshing to see something gay and cheerful, and more like old times in rural England. At Henham Hall, the seat of Lord Stradbroke, Christmas has been kept with the hospitality befitting the position of its owner as Lord-Lieutenant of the county. A great ball was given to the servants and employees on the estate the day after Christmas; and since then a succession of entertainments for high and low have enlivened the neighbourhood. Some very good private theatricals were performed the second week in January, at which most of the members of the family assisted; and conspicuous amongst the actors were Mr. Gery Milner-Gibson Culham, son of Mr. Milner-Gibson, one of the A.D.C. company, and Mr. Henry Manners, brother of whom greatly distinguished themselves.

The poachers in the

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Great Britain.

LONDON, JANUARY 26—27, 1882.

M. GAMBETTA'S DEFEAT.

The majority in the French Chamber of Deputies took a step on Thursday the gravity of which it would be difficult to exaggerate. The debate on the report of the Committee of Thirty-three dealing with the Ministerial proposals for a revision of the Constitution resulted in the defeat of M. Gambetta's Government. It appears that the discussion, though fraught with such momentous issues, was remarkable neither for its length nor for its exciting interest. The truth is that men's minds were made up beforehand, and that the real motives which swayed their conduct were not those which could be displayed most effectively in public controversy. The French are especially prone to trick out their political business with splendid generalities and large assertions of principle. It is notorious, however, that the present crisis has been precipitated by the clash of personal interests and the movement of intrigue among small groups of politicians. We have frankly criticised M. Gambetta's policy. We have said that the expediency of the course he has chosen to take was from the first more than doubtful. It placed him in open antagonism with forces the strength of which he probably underestimated, and which he might have contrived to nullify by more judicious and cautious tactics. But, granting that M. Gambetta was led into some serious errors of judgment and that the majority of the Chamber have some reason—at any rate, from their own point of view—to complain of his treatment of the Republican party, we have still to ask what has been gained by driving to extremities the statesmen on whose Ministerial career the country undoubtedly staked its hopes at the last general election. The form of M. Gambetta's proposals was open to various and damaging criticism, and the substance was plainly distasteful to the greater number of the Deputies whether they call themselves Republicans or not. Yet it is hard to believe that the electors who voted for Gambettist candidates last summer have been moved to change their allegiance by the attacks in the Chamber or in the Press upon the scheme of revision. The majority who detest *scrutin de liste*, and who voted against M. Gambetta on Thursday for this reason, are nevertheless unlikely to denounce the principle of the measure they oppose. They know that if they had come forward in the constituencies last year—and they may shrewdly suspect that if they were to come forward now—as opponents of M. Gambetta and of *scrutin de liste*, they would have little better chance of election than the Legitimist or Bonapartist candidates. They will be paraded before the Chamber and before France in order that the world may see what they have lost in M. Gambetta's overthrow. The position is difficult to the verge of impossibility. Disorganization in the Chamber will probably be followed by the recall of M. Gambetta to power, and by a penal dissolution, or possibly by the abject submission of the Deputies in February or March to the proposals which they have rejected in January.

But, seeing that it is singularly dishonourable to M. Gambetta, and can by no possibility be established as a fact beyond dispute, it is perhaps better to fall back upon a simpler and more natural explanation, and to believe that the real cause of the downfall of M. Gambetta was his resolve to master the Chamber, and the resolve of the Chamber not to be mastered. Not the least eloquent nor the least telling portion of his speech was that in which he repudiated the imputation that he seeks to become Dictator of France. Were he, said he, to pursue such an end, he would only make himself a common laughing-stock. But surely M. Gambetta somewhat misapprehended the nature of the charge that serious politicians direct against him. None but Parliamentary fanatics suppose that M. Gambetta aspires to become Dictator of France in the sense that General Bonaparte or Louis Napoleon became Dictators; that he meditates dissolving the Chamber by force, sending the Representatives of the people to Mazas, and ruling with the help of subservient bayonets. But there is a form of Dictatorship which is not the less real because it is not ostensible and ostentatious. There is the Dictatorship of domineering natures—of natures that cannot tolerate men of marked ability or independent character in the same Cabinet with themselves, and whose instinct of personal ascendancy is to engage, at the earliest possible moment, in a duel with the Legislature which they are supposed as much to follow as to lead. What, in our opinion, has wrecked M. Gambetta and his Ministry is his inherent and ineradicable passion for supreme power. No doubt he would exercise this only by the weapons of the brain and tongue, by argument, by eloquence, by persistent will, by superior capacity. But men resent this sort of despotism even more, perhaps, than they resent cruder forms of tyranny. The man who is always right, and who must always have his own way, ends by becoming intolerable; and it is no exaggeration to say that, in the space of a few months—practically speaking, a few weeks—M. Gambetta has made himself intolerable to the Chamber that deliberately lifted him into power.

The *Daily News* observes:—The foremost statesman of France opens now a new chapter of his political life. M. Gambetta sitting in the body of the House as Deputy for Belleville will be a very different person from M. Gambetta expectantly and indolently loitering in the President's chair, or from M. Gambetta on the front Ministerial Bench. Recent English Parliamentary annals scarcely afford a parallel to the position which he will occupy. Pitt, under the Administration of Mr. Addington, is the nearest approach to it that our history affords. Lord John Russell watching to overturn Lord Palmerston, and Lord Palmerston lying in wait for opportunities to throw out Lord John Russell, present the nearest very recent resemblances to the posture of affairs in the French Chamber, with M. Gambetta as a private member under a Ministry of M. de Freycinet, M. Léon Say, or M. Jules Ferry. But neither Lord John Russell nor Lord Palmerston possessed during the period of their mutual rivalry anything like the ascendancy over any section of the Liberal party which M. Gambetta, notwithstanding the recent vote, has, or is likely soon to re-acquire, over probably a majority of the Republicans. We have said that the expediency of the course he has chosen to take was from the first more than doubtful. It placed him in open antagonism with forces the strength of which he probably underestimated, and which he might have contrived to nullify by more judicious and cautious tactics. But, granting that M. Gambetta was led into some serious errors of judgment and that the majority of the Chamber have some reason—at any rate, from their own point of view—to complain of his treatment of the Republican party, we have still to ask what has been gained by driving to extremities the statesmen on whose Ministerial career the country undoubtedly staked its hopes at the last general election. The form of M. Gambetta's proposals was open to various and damaging criticism, and the substance was plainly distasteful to the greater number of the Deputies whether they call themselves Republicans or not. Yet it is hard to believe that the electors who voted for Gambettist candidates last summer have been moved to change their allegiance by the attacks in the Chamber or in the Press upon the scheme of revision. The majority who detest *scrutin de liste*, and who voted against M. Gambetta on Thursday for this reason, are nevertheless unlikely to denounce the principle of the measure they oppose. They know that if they had come forward in the constituencies last year—and they may shrewdly suspect that if they were to come forward now—as opponents of M. Gambetta and of *scrutin de liste*, they would have little better chance of election than the Legitimist or Bonapartist candidates. They will be paraded before the Chamber and before France in order that the world may see what they have lost in M. Gambetta's overthrow. The position is difficult to the verge of impossibility. Disorganization in the Chamber will probably be followed by the recall of M. Gambetta to power, and by a penal dissolution, or possibly by the abject submission of the Deputies in February or March to the proposals which they have rejected in January.

THE RAILWAY ACCIDENT AT HORSEY.

Further inquiry into the cause and nature of the collision between the two passenger trains of the Great Northern Railway on Wednesday evening fully confirms the account already given. The thick fog having cleared away in the afternoon bore down again on Horsey soon after five o'clock in a form so appalling that one of the men employed at the station ran and informed his chief that black clouds were rolling up from Toton just as if the world was coming to an end. The fog signalled were sent for, but having so recently left duty they could hardly appear again on the instant. A passenger who was in the stationary train says that he heard the guard whistle twice, as a signal to start, but that the train did not at the moment move. He and his companions, all working men, filling a smoking carriage, called out jocularly, "All right, go on, we are all ready." The next instant they felt a thundering blow on the carriage suspended by thick darkness, followed by a feeling of being first pitched up and down, and then pushed along on broken pieces of wood. He found himself in another moment prone on the platform without the least idea how he got there. His first impulse was to call for his mate. Scores of similar cries arose, mixed with shrieks, walls, and groans. Hundreds of figures emerged from the carriages of the two trains, and ran hither and thither like great black phantoms in the thick fog, calling for their friends, and demanding help. While there can be no reasonable doubt that every effort would be made to effect aid, it is stated as a fact that one of the sufferers only reached the hospital at ten o'clock, the collision having occurred at half-past five, and that he was conveyed from King's-cross in a van which jolted horribly and put him into severe pain. There is on the other hand every reason to believe that the small staff at the Horsey station acted with promptitude and effect. Immediately on the occurrence the station-master made it his first business to block both up and down lines by seeing that the danger signal was put on at Finsbury-park, a mile and a half south, and at Wood-green, a mile north. The cloud of fog, it seems, was very local, and that both these stations were comparatively clear. Express trains were due on both up and down lines.

The guard of the advancing train, it seems, after it entered the fog, was unable to see any signal at all. The fog right he behold was so thick that he could not see the distant signal of Horsey, instead of being, as it was, within sixty yards of another train, the guard put on his steam brake, and brought pressure to bear in checking the train. There is, however, a slight incline towards the north, and even with the brake on and without steam, the momentum of the heavily-laden train must have given a rate of something like eight miles an hour at the moment the blow was struck. The effect seems to have been first to jerk upwards, and then to "telescope" the doomed third-class carriage. The roof flew off, the compartments were smashed together, the passengers

Minister has never been dismissed from office in Prussia merely because Parliament has refused to accept his measures. He is responsible to the Sovereign alone, and while he retains the Sovereign's confidence nothing that his opponents can do, even if they form a large majority in Parliament, can imperil his position. This is not only the theory of the Constitution, but it may be questioned whether any other system of government would be practicable in the present condition of parties in Prussia and Germany. Ministerial responsibility in the English sense implies that parties are fairly well defined, and that a tolerably stable majority will give its support, at least for a time, to any Cabinet which may be formed. If this anticipation were not well founded, there could not be even an approach to continuity in the political life of the country. Ministers would be compelled to carry on incessant intrigue, and serious legislation would be rendered impossible. Now, neither in Prussia nor in the German Empire is there any political party strong enough to maintain a Government in power. At the last general election for the Reichstag the Liberals were unexpectedly successful; but if an Imperial Ministry of Liberal sympathies were appointed it would be removed from office on the first occasion on which it proposed an important subject for discussion. The Liberals do not nearly equal all other parties combined; and they themselves are united only in opposition to a particular set of principles. The Clericals and the Conservatives, either separately or acting together, would be quite as powerless as the Liberals to uphold a Government; and the same may be said of any coalition of parties which has ever been seriously suggested. Even, therefore, if the Sovereign were willing to give up the rights conferred on him by the Constitution, he could not afford to do so: the change would mean a constant succession of Cabinets, each more feeble than the last, and absolutism in one form or another would become inevitable.—*St. James's Gazette.*

COURT AND FASHIONABLE NEWS.

OSBORNE, THURSDAY.

The Queen drove out yesterday afternoon attended by the Dauphine, Marchioness of Ely and Princess Beatrice walked and drove this morning with the Empress Eugenie. The Judge Advocate General had an audience of her Majesty yesterday. The Hon. Lady and Miss Biddulph had the honour of dining with the Queen yesterday.

The Duke of Portland arrived in Grosvenor- place on Thursday from Melton Mowbray.

The Earl of Airlie, who came from India expressly to attend his father's funeral, will leave on his return to India at the end of the ensuing month, to resume his duties with the 10th Hussars.

THE STATE OF THE MONEY MARKET.

THE SUPPOSED NEW CONSPIRACY.

A Dublin correspondent wrote on Thursday night:—The absence of Mr. Forster from yesterday's Cabinet Council may be accounted for by the fact that Major Clifford Lloyd, the Special Revenue Magistrate for the counties of Clare, Limerick, and Cork, has brought to the knowledge of the authorities at the Castle the existence of a widespread and dangerous conspiracy in his district. Major Lloyd, who is one of the most active magistrates in Ireland, has been able to discover the fullest particulars as to the membership, funds, and objects of this organisation. The news is regarded as very serious at the Castle. An informer has revealed all the plans of this secret association. The sudden orders to the 53rd Regiment to come to Ireland may have been caused by the information forwarded to the Executive from Limerick and Clare. There is no doubt that money has been distributed for the purpose of the conspiracy, and that arms, to a considerable extent have been smuggled into the country.

An inquest was held to-day, before Mr. Conner O'Donnell, on the remains of the man John Lennane, who was shot on Tuesday evening when sitting by the fireside in his son's house at Brough. The witness was of a formal character, and no detail of the apprehension of the criminals was given. The inquiry was adjourned. Lennane had been warned repeatedly to quit his employment, and such was the feeling with which this murder was regarded in the district that up to five o'clock last evening no collar would be supplied for the remains, till his son had to appeal to the parish priest to use his influence to get one.

Mr. John Moyl Mahony, supposed to be a Land League organiser, was arrested in Sackville-street to-day under the Coercion Act and lodged in gaol. Mr. Mahony is a native of Cork, where he was employed as a drayman, but latterly has come to reside in Dublin, and has been travelling about the provinces as a tradesman. He was a drayman in Brunswick-street, where a fortnight ago he searched for documents. He went to Nasas last week to visit the suspects confined in the gaol there. A fair was being held in the town that day, and in the course of the afternoon it was found that a large number of persons, including Mr. Wilkinson, who paid the 5,400 francs (say £180) for it. In 1878 the picture was bought by M. Nieuwenhuyse for 245 guineas. Jean Baptiste Greuze was not yet "up" in the market. The work then passed into the hands of Mr. W. Wells, of Redleaf; and at his sale in 1848 it was bought by the late Major of Hertford for £787 10s. At the present day it would probably fetch twice the amount.

—To a certain number of distinguished men he exclaimed, "Why did he not come to me? I would have filled his 'Crucifix' with gold." I was reminded of this anecdote while looking over the very sumptuous art book (published by Messrs. Sampson Low & Co.), "The Great Historic Galley of England," carefully and lovingly edited by Lord Ronald Gower, F.S.A. The volume just published comprises, among its splendid illustrations, which are executed by the Woodbury process, a copy of Greuze's exquisite "Girl with Doves," from the Hermitage collection. Lord Ronald tells us that the "Crucifix" with "Doves" was executed expressly for Mr. Wilkinson, who paid the 5,400 francs (say £180) for it. In 1878 the picture was bought by M. Nieuwenhuyse for 245 guineas. Jean Baptiste Greuze was not yet "up" in the market. The work then passed into the hands of Mr. W. Wells, of Redleaf; and at his sale in 1848 it was bought by the late Major of Hertford for £787 10s. At the present day it would probably fetch twice the amount.

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—Another handsome contribution to Art-bibliography which I have before me is "Bartolozzi and his Works," by Andrew W. Tuer (2 vols. London: Field and Tuer), being a most illustrated biographical and descriptive account of the life and career of the famous Italian engraver-Academian. The work comprises a catalog of a collection of upwards of two thousand of Bartolozzi's engraver's prints—the most extensive record of his work yet compiled. The catalog of several parts of the city took up

copies of the paper which were being sold by vendors through the streets. A consignment of 250 copies of the "Irish World" was taken possession of by the paper on its arrival at the North Wall from Liverpool this morning. The paper is dated at New York, January 21, and contains exciting articles with reference to Ireland.

—There have been several cases of garroting

in Dublin during the past week. Respectable persons have been knocked down and their brains torn from them. These attacks are, as a rule, made about eight o'clock at night when there are large numbers of people on the streets, and the garroters select the busiest thoroughfares for their operations.

—Letters received in London from the relatives of Mr. John Dillon, M.P., state that his illness has now taken a form which may result fatally at any moment. Some weeks ago his family offered to remove him to the South of France, and steps were taken with this view, but now Mr. Dillon absolutely refuses to make any condition whatever, the Irish authorities having declined to meet the wishes of his friends in this respect.

—The DESPATCH OF TROOPS TO IRELAND.—The 2d Battalion Grenadier Guards, commanded by Lieutenant-Colonel Philip Smith, and consisting of 29 officers and 661 men, left the Victoria Barracks, Windsor, on Thursday night, en route for Ireland, whence it had been suddenly ordered. The battalion marched to the Great Western Station, Windsor, whence the Guards were despatched with forty tons of luggage and several horses, to two special trains for Milford Haven, C. & SW. R. The Guards left Windsor at 10.30 p.m. and arrived at Milford Haven at 11.30 p.m. The troops were to be embarked on board the steamer for Cork, which would be ready the same afternoon. The women and children have been left at Windsor. The Castle Guard is now furnished by the 2d Battalion Scots Guards.

ECHOES OF THE WEEK.

Says *Mister Punch*, with respect to the "Old" *Punch*:—Object to it because it is French? So is *Punch*. But if we want good, forcible, colloquial English, why not call it the "Shut Up?" Aye, jesters know their business. There is no such noun substantive as "the shut-up," which is so much ungrammatical slangs. It is true that we call the head of the *Cabinet* "the Premier," but the French have no such term as "Premier" in their political vocabulary.

M. Gambetta is, or was (for there is no knowing what may happen in France by the time this sheet goes to press), "Premier Ministre" or "President du Conseil des Ministres." Were he spoken of as "le Premier" there would be a roar of laughter. People would be thinking of a "joune premier" at the Vaudeville.

"Premier" and "Prime," as we use them, are more Old Norman than modern French words. Thus, "premier Baron," "prime warder," "prime minister," &c.

Did King Charles II, who never said a foolish thing and never did a wise one, really make the remark that "English Bishops are not like the Bishops of other countries, because they were not at the head of their profession?" Such an unctuous quotation from the *dicta* of the Mercy Monarch was made the other day by the Rev. Dr. Belcher at a public meeting held to protest against the continued imprisonment of an obstinate Ritualist clergyman. Dr. Belcher's statement moved the audience to "laughter and cheers." If the second Charles really made the observation attributed to him, he was guilty of, for once, an extremely foolish utterance. Nor Bishops, Archbishops, nor Cardinals in Catholic countries can be said to be "at the head of their profession," seeing that the head of that profession is the Pope.

On the other hand, here is a well-authenticated anecdote about an obstinate Bishop which I find in Elmes' "Manners of the Life and Times of Sir Christopher Wren." The great architect had an uncle, Dr. Matthew Wren, Bishop of Ely and Registrar of the Order of the Garter, who having, as a stanch Royalist, incurred the displeasure of the Long Parliament, was immured in the Tower for nearly twenty years. Not long before the death of Oliver Cromwell that Prince went to dine with his son-in-law, Clapdale; and at his table Oliver found young Mr. Wren, already famous for his attainments in mathematics. After some little time, the Lord Protector, fixing his eyes on Mr. Wren, said, "You have an uncle who has long been confined in the Tower." "He has so," Sir Christopher replied. "He is well, Sir," said Mr. Wren, "but he bears his affliction with great patience and resignation." "Ho manie oon he will," pursued Oliver. "Will he Highness let me tell him this from your own mouth?" asked Wren. "Yes, you may," answered Oliver. And then he went away.

But when the overjoyed nephew related to his uncle the particulars of this interview, the good but obstinate Bishop replied, "with warm indignation, that it was not the first time that he had received the like intimation from that miscreant; but he disdained the terms proposed for his enlargement, which were a mean acknowledgment of his favour and an adroit submission to his detestable tyranny."

In the columns of a daily contemporary

Mr. Algernon Clarendon Swinburne contributes a fine piece of poetic satire on the Persecution of the Jews in Russia. I note in Mr. Swinburne's "cascading" lines these words, "by lying tongues adored." I was not aware till I read the Swinburnian effusion, that adoration was an articulate performance. I always thought that it was one of attitude and gesture expressive of love, reverence, and worship. The position of "adoration" is minutely described by Mr. Anthony Rich in his "Dictionary of Roman and Greek Antiquities." The body was slightly inclined forward and the knees half bent, while the right hand gently touched the object (say, the altar of the goddess) which was adored. The left hand was raised to the mouth and kissed, while it was waved in the direction of the adored object. The movements in what the learned Rich terms the "pantomime" of adoration are exactly figured in a woodcut taken from Gorlitz, in which a warrior is represented mutely adoring a statue of Victory.

When Napoleon the Great was told that Greuze had died in poverty at the Louvre, in which huge edifice the French Government formerly gave lodgings, not board

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Great Britain.

LONDON, JANUARY 23-29, 1882.

M. GAMBETTA'S FALL.

The *Saturday Review* declares that M. Gambetta has shown on a most conspicuous stage and in a most striking manner that a man may unmake as well as make himself. He is the sole author of his own fall. If it had been a strongly placed enemy on whose overthrow he was bent, he could not have taken more pains to accomplish it. There is a perverse ingenuity about the way in which he has united opposing factions against himself, and convinced that those who are most with him on one point shall be most against him on another. Either of M. Gambetta's mistakes would have been serious had it stood alone, but alone either might have been over. It is the combination that has been fatal, because it is this that has prevented him from finding effective support on either side of the Chamber. There must be a majority among the deputies who dislike the notion of unlimited revision, involving as it does the mischievous possibility of a constituent Assembly. There may even be a majority who, if the question had been raised in a different way and at a different time, would not have allowed M. Gambetta to go to the country as the advocate of *scrutin de liste* against *scrutin d'arrondissement*. But on the first of these points M. Gambetta had contrived to give bigger offence to the advanced Republicans, while he had deprived the moderate Republicans of the one means by which the proposal of unlimited revision could consistently be resisted. Not a year ago revision was esteemed a mere craze of the Extreme Left. If M. Gambetta had made opposition to any revision whatever the foundation of his canvass last summer, there is little doubt that he would have carried the electors with him. By taking his stand on partial revision, he accustomed the country to the idea that the Constitution was amendable, and involved himself in a serious difficulty of interpretation. Out of one and the same clause in the Constitution there had to be got an authorisation of partial revision, and of prohibition of complete revision. Unfortunately, the article in question did not itself at all kindly to this double process, it simply declares that the Chambers shall have the right to declare, either of their own accord or at the request of the President of the Republic, that there is a cause for a revision of the Constitutional laws; and that after the two Chambers shall have come to this resolution they shall unite themselves in National Assembly and proceed to revision. On both the issues upon which he has so perversely chosen to fix his stand M. Gambetta has been decisively beaten. Seldom has a conclusion so important been reached with so much rapidity by so eminent a man.

We (the *Spectator*) are not strong partisans of M. Gambetta, but we confess to a certain sense of dismay at his fall from power. The occurrence betrays the strength of influences in Paris, which are far from favourable either to the existence or the durability of a good Government. The sudden change there has been too dramatic, too unlike that strong movement of deliberate reason which should characterise Republican Government. As to what is to happen next, it is difficult to form even a definite opinion. All depends upon the effect of the overtures upon French electors. M. Grévy, who predicted M. Gambetta's fall, and is probably not displeased by it, will no doubt, send for M. de Freycinet or M. Léon Say; but if M. Gambetta has not lost his sway with the electors, M. de Freycinet will be no stronger than before. He may, of course, abandon the revision project, and the Chamber, having no alternative man before it, may sustain him for a time; but in a few weeks the deputies will know that the electors doubt them, the groups will form again, and the cry which M. Gambetta's friends will raise for a dissolution, to test the opinion of the country, will be almost irresistible. M. Gambetta has already prepared the bills he had decided to introduce, and as member for Belleville intends to proceed with them. If the Ministry reject them, they may be defeated, for it is only on *scrutin de liste* that M. Gambetta quarrels with the majority; if they accept them they will look ridiculous. M. Gambetta being virtually their master; while if they allow the bills to pass up to the Senate, and reject them there, they place that body in the most invidious position. Even if they do nothing, they will be most dangerously situated. They have to control the financial crisis, if they can, to discover some policy in North Africa which the country will bear, to arrive at some *modus vivendi* with England in Egypt—where M. Gambetta's fall should inspire the Panislamic party, to take up the dropped thread of diplomacy everywhere, and to do all this with a sense that the most powerful man in France is watching them with unfriendly eyes, waiting the opportunity to pour upon them a flood of the corrosive eloquence which in Opposition has always been so irresistible. It is scarcely possible that a strong Government should be formed under such circumstances, and it is a strong Government, or, at least, durable one, that France now wants.

The *Economist* thinks the very best we can now look forward to is a succession of weak Governments, with no fixed policy, we see Prince Bismarck apparently provoking

no genuine hold upon the people, and no certainty that on the occurrence of any great event there may not be an irresistible cry for M. Gambetta. That is his own belief, and he has hitherto shown that he knows France. If M. Léon Say is persuaded or compelled to accept the portfolio of Finance, he may steer the ship through the coming storm. He really knows the waters he is sailing in, while M. Gambetta did not. The mere impression created through Europe that France does not know her own mind, and insists on a Minister one day to dismiss him the next, must be most prejudicial to all permanent political good order, for which is required, first of all, a tranquil France.

The *Times* says: - For M. Gambetta there is no alternative at present but to retire and wait. His political influence is impaired, but no one means extinguished. His voice will be still potent in the Chamber, and there is no trustworthy sign that his personal influence over the French electorate is impaired. But the Chamber has condemned his Ministry, and he has promptly deferred to its judgment. Whether and how soon he will again be summoned to the responsible conduct of affairs must depend for the most part on his own temper, judgment, and patience. If the country is really with him and is really bent on the policy which he desired to pursue, it is likely enough that his retirement will be only temporary.

The *Daily News* says that M. Gambetta's conduct in forcing on a Ministerial crisis at the present time betrays that defective sense of the responsibility which has been too conspicuously displayed during the past three years. M. Gambetta's first great error, from which all the rest have been derived, was committed three years ago. His true course would have been to take office in January, 1879. His endeavour to enlist in his service the swordsmen and penmen of the Empire, the Marquis de Galifet and M. Weiss, for example, was a mistake in time if not in principle. The Deputies have seen no other way out of the difficulty than that of disbanding themselves of him. It may be doubted whether, notwithstanding his many errors, they have chosen the lesser of the two evils. But the chief blame must rest with the man who blundered into the difficulty rather than with the Chamber, which has not been able to do better than blunder out of it.

The *Morning Post* draws an elaborate analogy between Mr. Gladstone and M. Gambetta, and suggests that the tears which have been shed from Radical eyes over the misfortunes of the would-be Dictator of France were set flowing by a disquieting reflection upon what may be in store for the would-be Dictator of England. Nor, perhaps, is the sympathy one of persons merely.

The *Statist* thinks it risks little in predicting that Ministries will rise and fall with bewildering rapidity if M. Gambetta stands upon the lines he now occupies, and that after a longer or shorter interval M. Gambetta will return to power at the call of the country, the Chamber submitting on being dissolved. Meanwhile, France loses influence abroad, and reform is suspended.

THE FRENCH COMMERCIAL CRISIS.

There is good reason to believe now, the *Bulletin* observes, that the liquidation on the Bourse next week will be carried through without further collapse. A number of rules have been laid down regulative of business which ought to give an opportunity to dealers to pull through their difficulties. One of these is to avoid continuation business for "bills" and "bears" (that is, all speculative business), and to fix the price in favour of the former:—

In the meantime, the prices of many securities dealt in are merely nominal. Take Union Générale shares, for example; these cannot possibly be worth more than nominal value, yet the reason of this is that if any one deals with them he will get them at very low price, but there are very few people who want them, and the price quoted is the speculative price. Although the aspect is more tranquil, and we hope the worst is over, it would be a mistake to conclude that everything is safe. There are in Paris two institutions for the sale and purchase of stocks and shares—the Parquet, the number of members of which (Agents de Change) is only sixty; and the *Couloise*, where all sorts of good and bad securities are dealt in by all sorts of brokers who have not gained an entrance to the more aristocratic Parquet. The arrangements providing for the payment of the "differences" of the Agents de Change refer to the latter; but what is to become of the *Couloise*, and in dealing in all securities, good, bad, and indifferent, for instance? Contingencies are to be expected, at which prices will be made up, and everything will be settled on that basis, but what afterwards? Those who have securities will begin to sell—who will buy? When it is found impossible to get purchasers, will not doubts begin to prevail regarding even good securities? And if that feeling extends, we greatly fear that worse is to come yet than anything we have witnessed. What has prevented utter collapse in Paris is the extent to which the London came to its aid and provided a market for the enormous masses of Egyptian, Spanish, and other foreign stocks that were offered. Other markets have been in the habit of taking the cue from Paris, and as Paris was no longer buyer, there was no other market for sellers but London.

THE EUROPEAN SITUATION.

The situation in Europe at the present time, the *Statist* says, is full of the elements of danger and confusion. The same thing, no doubt, could have been said with equal truth any time for the last seven years, and as during that period a general conflict has been averted, we may venture to hope that 1882 will also be allowed to pass without warfare. Still, it would be unwise to shut our eyes to the perils by which we are confronted:—

In fact, at the present time there is no single great Power in Europe which has not some difficulty that may at any moment lead to war. To begin with, we have entered into partnership with France to maintain a joint protectorate over Egypt—that is, over a country which is still a part of the Ottoman Empire, and, therefore, is involved in all the complications of the Eastern Question. As we had not enough of embarrassment in this bare fact, both we ourselves and France, through whom alone we could control Egypt without the exertion of actual force. In her, France has still greater difficulties. She is not only a partner with us in all the entanglements of the Egyptian Protectorate; she has also her Tunis quarrel still upon her hands. At home, again, France is tormented by a Bourse panic, and, to add to all her embarrassments, she has now upon her hands a Ministerial Crisis. Looking across the Rhine, we see Prince Bismarck apparently provoking

a quarrel with the Reichstag. It would be waste of time to refer to the internal condition of Russia and the danger with which it menaces the rest of Europe. It is equally unnecessary to speak of the condition of Turkey. But looking at Austria, we find her confronted by a rising in Dalmatia and the Herzegovina. We cannot forget that it was almost in the same spot that the insurrection began which finally brought about the Servian War and the Russian invasion of Turkey. We have no reason to suppose that Prince Bismarck is less resolved than hitherto to defend Austria, and if Germany will support Austria, she can also command the assistance of both Italy and Turkey. Even supposing, then, that Russia could count upon the alliance of France, France and Russia combined would have against them Germany, Austria, Italy, and Turkey, and it seems incredible that any man making pretension to be a statesman would rashly commit himself to such a course. Yet, if Russia does not want to re-open the Eastern Question, why should she encourage insurrection in the Herzegovina? And, if she has not been stirring up the insurrection there, whence does the support of the movement come? But whatever the explanation may be, the state of the Balkan Peninsula is certainly disquieting, and altogether there is so much obscurity respecting the relations of the great Continental Powers to one another, and respecting the origin of many of the difficulties with which we are confronted, that there can be no wonder at the anxiety which prevails throughout Europe respecting the outlook at the present moment.

THE NORTH RIDING ELECTION.

The *Saturday Review* suggests that, as the English landlords have recently been warned not to be too confident that their position is unassailable, they might be invited in a similar spirit not to mislead the lessons of the North Riding election. Their victory has been a narrow one, and has been obtained at the price of significant concessions:—

Fortunately for their party, the lapse of their candidate into an antiquated protectionism appears to have been wholly gratuitous. The electors were offered a tax on bread, but attached no kind of importance to it. Nothing could be more unfortunate to the landlords at the present crisis than that they should, in defending their interests, be supposed to be fighting for protection. For on the ground of protection they must necessarily be beaten at every step in argument: while it is sheer argument, in itself, clear, that the tax is a reasonable, the well-aimed project of land reform and must be successfully encountered.

The *Spectator*, while "believing the ultimate triumph of Liberalism to be certain as the victory of good over evil," thinks the Liberal defeat a very considerable one, but trusts that the Government will go forward on their adopted course all the more zealously for this rebuff. Although most unfortunate for their party, the lapse of the modern than of the ancient style of ecclesiastical music. Olivia's cantabile, "As by the river" (in E flat), is difficult, but inspiring. The act concludes with No. 7, a finale after the early style of Verdi. In this scene occurs a long duet in A major ("In Misfortune") for Olivia and Alva. The allusion to the due tone but sprightly, is unsuitable to the dramatic situation in which it occurs. Act 2 opens with Moro's (in E flat, 3-4), "Farewell ye thoughts of joy," a commonplace but tuneful solo, so well sung by Mr. Barton McGuckin, in the same key and time. "Bold Knight," was equally successful; Alva's solo, in the same key and time, "I am thy master," was also well done by Mr. McGuckin. The act concludes with a march in C major, modulating into various numbers. The succeeding "Chorus of Students" is bright and effective. No. 5, the Chorale, "Father on High," is a homely, but throughout the modern than of the ancient style of ecclesiastical music. Olivia's cantabile, "As by the river" (in E flat), is difficult, but inspiring. The act concludes with No. 7, a finale after the early style of Verdi. In this scene occurs a long duet in A major ("In Misfortune") for Olivia and Alva. The allusion to the due tone but sprightly, is unsuitable to the dramatic situation in which it occurs. Act 2 opens with Moro's (in E flat, 3-4), "Farewell ye thoughts of joy," a commonplace but tuneful solo, so well sung by Mr. Barton McGuckin, in the same key and time. "Bold Knight," was equally successful; Alva's solo, in the same key and time, "I am thy master," was also well done by Mr. McGuckin. The act concludes with a march in C major, modulating into various numbers. The succeeding "Chorus of Students" is bright and effective. No. 5, the Chorale, "Father on High," is a homely, but throughout

art, and casts his pencils on the ground. The Duke appears to relent, and reversing the sentence of the judges, suffers all to depart freely. The lovers are again united. The Duke, knowing that Olivia's heart is indeed his, is deeply moved by such piety, always and the prospect of a couple of months, and the suggested improvement of a very disagreeable temper. The interpretation of Mr. Jones's comedietta leaves very little to be desired. Mr. A. Wood, a clever actor, who seldom seems to get the chance of distinction which he deserves, gives real freshness and humour to his study of irascibility in Mr. Verallot the elder. He plays throughout with admirable consistency and point. Mr. Dacre as the medical lover bears himself not only in a manly fashion, but a great deal more naturally than he is wont to do. These two, with Messrs. Hamilton and Medwin, Miss Goldney and Miss Medwin in minor parts, were decided success.—*Observer*.

Prosperity continues to attend the majority of our metropolitan managers, and at several theatres it still remains necessary to book seats in advance. The weather throughout the month has been favourable to places of amusement, and the receipts during the holiday period have accordingly been considerably in excess of former years. But few changes of programme have been made. A morning performance of *The She Stoops to Conquer* was repeated at the Haymarket on Saturday. On Wednesday evening Mr. G. Sims's popular comedy of *The Half-way House* was represented at the Vaudeville for the hundredth time.

The admirers of Mr. Henry Forrester will be sorry to hear that he is at present suffering from a severe illness, which has compelled him to postpone his more immediate engagements. The popular actor had just received some readings in Scotland when he was first attacked, but has been able to return home to London, where he has the advantage of the best medical advice.

A one-act play, called *My Little Girl*, adapted by Mr. Dion G. Boucicault from Messrs. Besant and Rice's novel of the same name, with their permission, has been accepted by the Court management, and will be produced in February. This being the younger Boucicault's first attempt at dramatic composition will doubtless excite considerable interest.

Mr. Edward Rose's little piece *The Marble Arch*, recently announced for representation, was postponed because of the illness and death of Mrs. Soothern—Miss Eva Soothern plays in it. Now, however, it is definitely arranged for Thursday. February the 2d, the anniversary of the first performance of *The Colonel*.

Mr. Gunn and Mr. Boucicault have arranged to give a season of dramatic drama in Dublin, commencing at Easter in next year. If it prove the important feature they anticipated it will be continued every year at the same time.

Mr. and Luigi Lablache (Miss Emmerson) have been engaged by Mrs. Scott-Siddons to support her on her tour, commencing February 27th. Mr. Lablache will play the parts he played with Mrs. Siddons in her last tour in America, viz., Orlando, Romeo, Macbeth, etc.

COURT AND FASHIONABLE NEWS.

OSBORNE, FRIDAY.

The Queen and Princess Beatrice drove out yesterday afternoon, attended by Lady Abercromby; and her Majesty went out with Princess Beatrice this morning. Lieutenant-Colonel White, C.B., V.C. (Gordon Highlanders), arrived at Osborne yesterday, and was presented to the Queen on his return from India, and afterwards had the honour of dining with her. The Hon. Ethel Cadogan has succeeded the Hon. Victoria Erskine as Maid of Honour in Waiting.

The *Times* has been engaged by Mrs. Scott-Siddons to support her on her tour, commencing February 27th. Mr. Lablache will play the parts he played with Mrs. Siddons in her last tour in America, viz., Orlando, Romeo, Macbeth, etc.

Lord and Lady Thurlow have arrived in Chesham-place for the season.

Sir W. Welly-Gregory, M.P. for South Lincolnshire, has gone to Luxor. It is expected that the hon. baronet will remain in Egypt until March.

A marriage is arranged (says the *Post*) and will take place after Easter, between the Hon. Evelyn Palk, daughter of Lord and Lady Haldon, and Mr. Ernest Gambier-Parry, son of Mr. Gambier-Parry, of Highgate, Kent.

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